

PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release
January 2011

Lindsey Kline, Public Relations
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In Search of Mindfulness: A Hermit's Great Escape

KENSINGTON, MD – Have you ever dreamed of stepping out of the day-to-day stream of job responsibilities, ubiquitous technology, and the routine rigmarole that make up your life? Is it possible? Desirable, even? In Steve Himmer's debut novel, *The Bee-Loud Glade* (April 2011, Atticus Books), the main character finds himself plucked from his soul-stifling suburban life and hired to spend seven years of his life in silence as a hermit.

The Bee-Loud Glade is the story of Finch, a daydreamer whose job as a marketer of plastic plants consists mostly of updating the blogs of the imaginary people he creates. Once new management steps in and kicks him out, Finch slowly lets go of all ties to the outside world. With both his electricity and motivation shut off, he sinks into a state of oblivion, holed up in his apartment for weeks on end. But when his reply to what he thinks is innocuous spam sweeps him into the world of billionaire Mr. Crane, Finch agrees to live and work – for more money than he's ever imagined – as an ornamental hermit in a cave on Mr. Crane's estate.

"A hypnotic and heartfelt debut novel ... Unambiguously ingenious. Very clearly announces a shining new talent."

~ Frederick Reiken, author of *Day for Night*, *The Lost Legends of New Jersey*, and *The Odd Sea*

Despite his concerted efforts at meditation, Finch finds that escaping the modern world is not as easy as switching out his shorts and T-shirt for a hempen belt and tunic. The landscape changes with his employer's mood swings and whims, whether it's creating a false winter with snow machines or digging a river. Meanwhile, Mrs. Crane, a lonely former actress, tantalizes Finch to no end in an effort to shake him from his blind obedience to her husband's orders.

"An allegorical novel that seems eerily contemporary. Thoreau meets Ballard, meets Huysmans and many more."

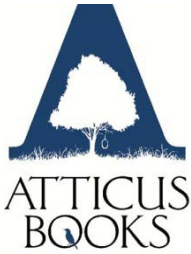
~ Tom McCarthy, author of *Remainder*, and the Man Booker shortlisted novel, *C*

This darkly comic commentary on modern work and wealth thoughtfully probes deep-rooted questions about the nature of man, the workplace, and society (and what happens in their absence). Set in a postmodern pastoral landscape, it brings a playfulness more commonly found in urban fiction to an outdoor setting. With light and engaging prose, Himmer deftly unearths the ironies of life and the futility of escape.

The Bee-Loud Glade: A Novel
Steve Himmer

Atticus Trade Paperback Original
\$14.95
6x9, 224 pages
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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Steve Himmer teaches at Emerson College in Boston, where he earned his Master of Fine Arts in creative writing and is on the faculty of the First-Year Writing Program. His stories have appeared in numerous journals and anthologies including *Hobart*, *The Los Angeles Review*, *Night Train*, *Pindeldyboz*, *PANK*, *Emprise Review*, and *Everyday Genius*. He also is a frequent blogger on writing and teaching, and edits *Necessary Fiction*, a webjournal from So New Publishing, a press based in Eugene, Oregon.

The Bee-Loud Glade is his first novel.

To become part of *The Bee-Loud Glade* community, check out Steve Himmer's posts at <http://facebook.com/TheBeeLoudGlade>

To keep track of all of Steve's writings, visit him at <http://stevhimmer.com>

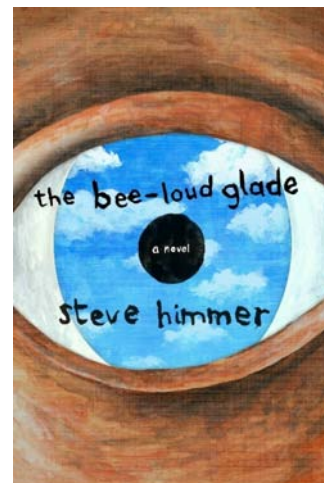
For additional information on Atticus Books, the publisher of *The Bee-Loud Glade*, visit <http://atticusbooksonline.com> or e-mail danc@atticusbooks.net

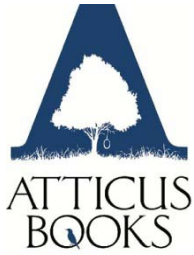
Atticus Books, an independent press based in the Washington, D.C., region, distributes its books through Itasca Books (<http://itascabooks.com>). Booksellers are encouraged to order directly from Itasca or their wholesaler.



Seven-city tour by author:

- Washington, D.C. (February 2011)
- Salem, Massachusetts (February)
- Manchester, Vermont (April)
- Cambridge, Massachusetts (May)
- Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (May)
- Baltimore, Maryland (May)
- Chicago, Illinois (July)





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Advance Praise of *The Bee-Loud Glade*

“An allegorical novel that seems eerily contemporary. Thoreau meets Ballard, meets Huysmans and many more.”

~ Tom McCarthy,
author of *Remainder* and *C*

“Meet Finch: 10 years into his job as Assistant to the Director of Brand Awareness at Second Nature Modern Greenery, writer of dozens of blogs where he creates imaginary lives for himself — none as surreal as the life he’ll soon lead as a hermit. Enter Himmer’s humorous, carefully imagined world. Watch his skillful hand transform Finch into a postmodern Thoreau before your eyes. Sit still. Pay attention. Do all this, and you, too, will fall under this novel’s wondrous spell. I promise.”

~ Peter Grandbois,
author of *The Gravedigger*, *The Arsenic Lobster*, and *Nahoonkara*

“In *The Bee-Loud Glade*, Steve Himmer examines the charm of inertia. He professionalizes hermitry, making it a spectacle that is equal parts sitcom and documentary. The premise is wild but the execution is contemplative, making this novel funny two ways: funny ha-ha and funny strange.” ~ William Walsh,
author of *Questionstruck* and *Ampersand, Mass.*

“With *The Bee-Loud Glade*, Steve Himmer has written a hypnotic and heartfelt debut novel, interweaving naturalistic beauty and postmodern complexity within this compulsively readable parable. Whether the story’s hermit-for-hire is a man approaching some form of enlightenment or merely the whim of an eccentric billionaire remains up for debate, but the novel itself is unambiguously ingenious and very clearly announces a shining new talent.”

~ Frederick Reiken,
author of *Day For Night*, *The Lost Legends of New Jersey*, and *The Odd Sea*

“Featuring a faceless drone from the world of corporate America and an eccentric millionaire whose whims change by the week, Steve Himmer’s *The Bee-Loud Glade* is a wonderful novel that’s hard to describe, but that’s a good thing. Just go where this stunning book takes you and enjoy the story, the characters, and the language.” ~ Michael Kindness, host of *Books on the Nightstand*