



## Nuclear Age, The

By Tim O'Brien

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) A blue rectangular button with the text "Read Online" in white. To the right of the text is a white arrow icon pointing to the right.

### Nuclear Age, The By Tim O'Brien

At the age of 49, after a lifetime of insomnia and midnight peril, William Cowling believes the hour has come for him to seize control. So, he begins to dig a hole in his backyard--a shelter against impending doom--much to the chagrin of his family. Ultimately, he finds he must make a choice: safety or sanity; love or fidelity to the truth. Darkly comic, poignant, and provocative, this visionary novel by the author of *In the Lake of the Woods* captures the essence of what it's like to be a conscious human being in the nuclear age Pub: 6,000.

[Download Nuclear Age, The ...pdf](#)

[Read Online Nuclear Age, The ...pdf](#)

# **Nuclear Age, The**

*By Tim O'Brien*

## **Nuclear Age, The By Tim O'Brien**

At the age of 49, after a lifetime of insomnia and midnight peril, William Cowling believes the hour has come for him to seize control. So, he begins to dig a hole in his backyard--a shelter against impending doom--much to the chagrin of his family. Ultimately, he finds he must make a choice: safety or sanity; love or fidelity to the truth. Darkly comic, poignant, and provocative, this visionary novel by the author of *In the Lake of the Woods* captures the essence of what it's like to be a conscious human being in the nuclear age  
Pub: 6,000.

## **Nuclear Age, The By Tim O'Brien Bibliography**

- Sales Rank: #11083557 in Books
- Published on: 1989-08-01
- Released on: 1989-08-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.10" h x 5.20" w x .70" l,
- Binding: Paperback

 [Download Nuclear Age, The ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Nuclear Age, The ...pdf](#)

## Download and Read Free Online Nuclear Age, The By Tim O'Brien

---

### Editorial Review

#### Amazon.com Review

In 1969, 22-year-old Tim O'Brien was drafted and eventually sent to Vietnam. In a memoir, *If I Die in a Combat Zone* and two works of fiction--*Going After Cacciato* and *The Things They Carried*--he revisited the war, crafting gut-wrenching tales of terror, death, and futility among the rice paddies and jungles of Southeast Asia. In *The Nuclear Age* the author explores the road not taken: his hero, William Cowling, avoided the draft and spent the 1960s, instead, in a welter of antiwar radicalism. But soon one begins to wonder how different life in the underground, with its strange mix of idealistic visionaries and glory-seeking psychotics, really is from the battlefields of Vietnam. Enlisted in the ranks of an antiwar paramilitary organization in Florida, William remarks to his radical girlfriend Sarah that the group is "like a death squad. Can't tell the good guys from the bad guys, they're all gunslingers. Completely scrambled. But it's lethal. I know that much, it'll kill somebody." Nevertheless, he sticks it out in a noncombatant capacity and resurfaces several years later at the end of the war as a profitable trader in uranium.

Success hasn't dulled William Cowling's survival instinct, however; at the novel's start in 1995, the now-middle-aged businessman is busy digging a bomb shelter in his back yard. Nuclear war has been a particular obsession of his since those childhood drills back in the mid-1950s during which he was expected to crawl under his desk at school and cover his head against fallout. Forty years later, he still isn't taking any chances. His daughter thinks he's crazy, his wife is on the verge of leaving him, but still he digs--and as he digs he reviews the events in his life that have led up to this moment. *The Nuclear Age* is especially strong when it focuses on William's childhood and the complex web of relationships that exist within families. Less successful is O'Brien's portrayal of his character's obsession with nuclear war; though we are meant to see William as the only truly sane man in an insane world, all too often he comes across as genuinely cracked. Despite the book's weaknesses, it has many strengths, not least among them being Tim O'Brien's fierce intelligence, black wit, and eloquent prose. --Alix Wilber

#### From Library Journal

Brilliant nuclear detonations and rising silver Titans have plagued William's dreams since his childhood during the Cuban missile crisis, when he fashioned a fallout shelter from the family ping-pong table. Thirty years later his fear has mushroomed into blinding paranoia, and when his wife announces she is leaving, he laces a hole in the backyard with dynamite, places her in it, and prepares to blow her up. Understand, however, that he is a good pacifist. The impending murder is really the Bomb's fault. "If you're sane, you see the Bomb's madness. If you see madness, you freak." Such is O'Brien's ceaseless harangue in *The Nuclear Age*, an awkward polemic sure to disappoint readers of *Going After Cacciato*. Sadly, *The Nuclear Age* is not in that league, with orchestrated excitement here replaced by a didactic monotone. Paul E. Hutchison, English Dept., Pennsylvania State Univ., University Park

Copyright 1985 Reed Business Information, Inc.

#### From the Publisher

*The Nuclear Age* is about one man's slightly insane attempt to come to terms with a dilemma that confronts us all -- a little thing called The Bomb. The year is 1995, and William Cowling has finally found the courage to meet his fears head-on. Cowling's courage takes the form of a hole that he begins digging in his backyard in an effort to "bury" all thoughts of the apocalypse. Cowling's wife, however, is ready to leave him; his daughter has taken to calling him "nutto"; and Cowling's own checkered past seems to be rising out of the crater taking shape on his lawn, besieging him with flashbacks and memories of a life that's had more than its share of turmoil. Brilliantly interweaving his masterful storytelling powers with dark, surreal humor and

empathy for characters caught in circumstances beyond their control, Tim O'Brien brings us his most entertaining novel to date. At once wildly comic and sneakily profound, *The Nuclear Age* is also utterly unforgettable.

## Users Review

### From reader reviews:

#### Marvin Perdue:

Do you have favorite book? When you have, what is your favorite's book? Reserve is very important thing for us to find out everything in the world. Each e-book has different aim or goal; it means that publication has different type. Some people sense enjoy to spend their time for you to read a book. They can be reading whatever they acquire because their hobby is usually reading a book. Think about the person who don't like reading a book? Sometime, man or woman feel need book if they found difficult problem as well as exercise. Well, probably you will require this Nuclear Age, The.

#### Angela Babb:

The book Nuclear Age, The can give more knowledge and information about everything you want. Exactly why must we leave the best thing like a book Nuclear Age, The? Several of you have a different opinion about guide. But one aim which book can give many info for us. It is absolutely proper. Right now, try to closer using your book. Knowledge or details that you take for that, you may give for each other; you could share all of these. Book Nuclear Age, The has simple shape but the truth is know: it has great and massive function for you. You can seem the enormous world by available and read a reserve. So it is very wonderful.

#### Denise Barnhart:

People live in this new morning of lifestyle always try to and must have the extra time or they will get lots of stress from both day to day life and work. So , whenever we ask do people have free time, we will say absolutely of course. People is human not really a huge robot. Then we consult again, what kind of activity do you have when the spare time coming to an individual of course your answer will probably unlimited right. Then do you ever try this one, reading textbooks. It can be your alternative with spending your spare time, often the book you have read is usually Nuclear Age, The.

#### Richard Cary:

Don't be worry should you be afraid that this book will certainly filled the space in your house, you might have it in e-book way, more simple and reachable. That Nuclear Age, The can give you a lot of friends because by you looking at this one book you have point that they don't and make anyone more like an interesting person. This kind of book can be one of one step for you to get success. This e-book offer you information that perhaps your friend doesn't recognize, by knowing more than different make you to be great men and women. So , why hesitate? We need to have Nuclear Age, The.

**Download and Read Online Nuclear Age, The By Tim O'Brien  
#7IN4RWOKVSL**

## **Read Nuclear Age, The By Tim O'Brien for online ebook**

Nuclear Age, The By Tim O'Brien Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Nuclear Age, The By Tim O'Brien books to read online.

### **Online Nuclear Age, The By Tim O'Brien ebook PDF download**

**Nuclear Age, The By Tim O'Brien Doc**

**Nuclear Age, The By Tim O'Brien MobiPocket**

**Nuclear Age, The By Tim O'Brien EPub**