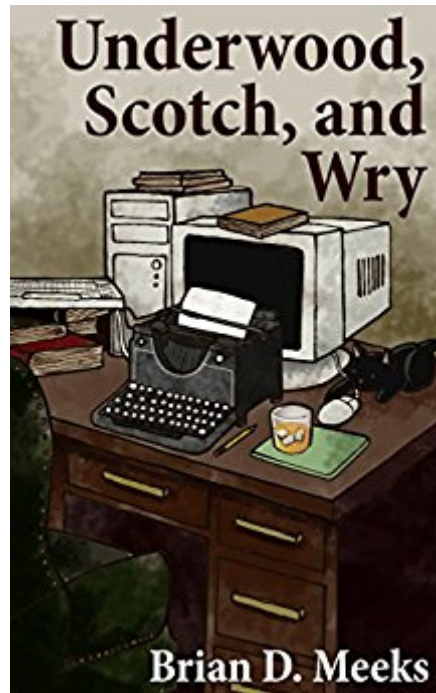




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# Underwood, Scotch, And Wry



## Synopsis

Praise for Underwood, Scotch, and Wry: “Absolutely fabulous wit and dialogue.” —M.W. “Thoroughly enjoyed this book. Being a former “non-computer nerd” there was much to make me laugh! I may even try Twitter now!” —Debbie J. W. “With a salute to social media, the author presents a lovable scoundrel who entertains one page after page. Nicely done.” —H. R. Not Every Hero is Heroic Arthur Byrne is a lot of things—bitter, ambivalent, angst ridden, snarky, and more than anything—he’s a writer who can’t write anymore. So, naturally, he became a professor. A life in academia has allowed Arthur to hone his drinking skills, spend time with age-inappropriate teaching assistants, and avoid the demons that silenced his Underwood many years before. He might describe himself as an anti-hero, if he weren’t so against the term. Underwood, Scotch, and Wry, is a satirical look at social media and modern technology through the eyes of a Luddite college professor whose days at Beckerston College are numbered. The Dean wants him gone. The President wants him gone. Arthur wants to be left alone. Can a group of Teaching Assistants led by Wen Hu, a twenty-eight year old suffering from unbridled optimism, save Arthur from dismissal—and himself? Pick up this page turner today! Author Interview: You didn’t start out writing satire fiction, what made you dip your toes into this genre? You’re right, I began writing the Henry Wood series and then penned A Touch To Die For. I had always been snarky on my blog and one day I got a tweet from a reader who wanted to know why I didn’t write humor and satire. I replied that I didn’t know why and would start that day. And I did. How did you choose to write a satire about social media? I had written a number of blog posts for PR bloggers and they were always humorous looks at social media. Those posts were well received, so it was a natural place to begin. Underwood, Scotch, and Wry is supposed to be both entertaining and educational for those who might not know much about social media. I’ve heard from a number of people that say they really liked the underlying education throughout. Who would enjoy this novel? People who regularly use the word snark will appreciate Arthur Byrne. Get started reading Underwood, Scotch, and Wry with just one click.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Eight Stars for Underwood, Scotch and Wry! If I awarded any more stars, Mr. Meeks might get a case of performance anxiety and cease writing, and that would be a tragedy indeed IMHO. Former famous author Arthur Byrne hasn't written in years. Instead he has a comfy job as an English Lit professor, and a habit of getting lit at the local pub, Edgar's Pit. The President of the University and the Dean of Liberal Arts want him out. The only way to do that is by setting him up to fail - - he is assigned to teach a class on Social Media. Sounds like a simple class to teach. Except that Arthur wouldn't know a megabyte if it bit him. A gig means the musicians have been booked. Facebook? Isn't that what you look through at the Police Station to identify a mugger? Can Arthur's Teaching Assistants teach him about modern technology? Will he be able to hold onto his job? Will he ever write again? I really enjoyed reading this story about the wry Professor and his fresh young TAs and students. I think this book will be enjoyed by luddites and techies, young and old, men and women. Thank you, Brian D. Meeks for writing this wonderful book and giving me an ARC!

The first three-quarters of this book was hilarious AND fairly realistic in the way it portrays university politics. My father and a couple of his good friends whom I knew well as a child taught at UT/Dallas, SMU, UT/Austin, OSU (in the fifties when it was Oklahoma A&M), and USM (when it was Mississippi Southern), so I could laugh at the way the professor protagonist handled things. He

could do an erudite lecture on a dime and could handle learning something completely new. Four stars for realism. However . . . \*spoiler alert\* this book was ABOUT social media and how this prof learned to use it for his benefit and teach things about it to his students. So the road trip to NYC about 3/4 of the way through was not needed. How much more on-theme would it have been to do the interaction with those two people by email or chat room or whatever? This would have shown even MORE how the social media could help someone. I didn't get anything out of the road trip, really. He could have sneaked out to his friend's house, taking his cat, and could have done that by social media. Then we would have reinforced the theme. I approved of the ending, mostly, although I kind of hated \*spoiler\* him "getting together" with the TA. He should have been the noble one. This experience (in the book) of realizing he cared about the job and the students after all should have proven his redemption, and he should have held off on any romantic encounters--these could come later, when the TA is no longer being rated or graded by him. It would have made me happier for him to be more noble and more of a role model. Anyway, though, the way he talked was witty and reminded me so much of my father, whom I still miss (he died when I was 15 and still a stupid little teenybopper, and I never got to talk higher math with him, alas), and of the profs who were his good friends and my other role models. Made me wish I could go back to college and make some sort of contribution. All I can do is write my books and attempt to entertain and inform/educate readers as well as this book did (and further could have/should have, IMHO.) Recommended for those who like a college milieu and are not offended by a few sorta-off-color remarks.

I stopped reading this book less than halfway through. Though it started well enough, with an irreverent protagonist and several one-liners that made me laugh out loud, it quickly lost steam and focus. The opening chapters set the novel up as a satire of the politics of higher education, with the university administration forcing Professor Arthur Byrne to teach a class ("Social Media Science 101") for which he is uniquely unqualified so that he will lose his tenure. However, that seems only to be a sit-com-style contrivance to enable the novel to achieve its true aim -- to satirize social media in general -- by forcing this low-tech professor to come to grips with the nuances of Twitter and blogs. Unfortunately, the satire isn't as sharp as Professor Byrne's tongue, and after awhile the humor becomes monotonous and the story padded. I could see this working as a shorter piece, for example as one in a collection of short stories about Professor Byrne, who I think has more stories in him than just this one. But as a novel it didn't really work for me. That said, the prose was of a higher quality than I'm used to seeing in self-published novels, and Brian Meeks has a talent for humor. My only real qualm with the writing is that it felt like 90% of the story was dialogue. It was

more like reading a screenplay than a novel, with little dramatic action and settings that were scarcely more than generic backdrops for the conversations that take place in them. I'd like to see the author work harder to bring his settings to life with interesting, meaningful details that enhance the satire and shed light on how the characters inhabit and view that world.

This was my first meeting with Brian D Meeks, but it won't be my last. In this novel, Arthur is a former writer, a part time drunk, and a full time professor. When the school decides to get rid of him by making him teach a class on social media, which he knows less than nothing about, he rises the occasion, and with the help of some new friends, defeats the forces of mediocrity and hypocrisy (fair warning, if you discussions of middle aged professorial libertines bothers you, you may want to reconsider this fine book). All in all this was a hoot. I laughed out loud, learned a couple of things about twitter, and blogging, and when I arrived at the end, I was sorry to say goodbye to Harry, Wen, and all the other characters we met. The book skewers much of recent campus pc and codes of behavior discussions, it is also somewhat under written, the second half ends too quickly and neatly. But it's a very good time.

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