



The Long Journey to Jake Palmer

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What if there was a place where everything wrong in your life could be fixed?

Corporate trainer Jake Palmer coaches people to see deeper into themselves—yet he barely knows himself anymore. Recently divorced and weary of the business life, Jake reluctantly agrees to a lake-house vacation with friends, hoping to escape for ten days.

When he arrives, Jake hears the legend of Willow Lake—about a lost corridor that leads to a place where one’s deepest longings will be fulfilled.

Jake scoffs at the idea, but can’t shake a sliver of hope that the corridor is real. And when he meets a man who mutters cryptic speculations about the corridor, Jake is determined to find the path, find himself, and fix his crumbling life.

But the journey will become more treacherous with each step Jake takes.

The Long Journey to Jake Palmer Details

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Author : James L. Rubart

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From Reader Review The Long Journey to Jake Palmer for online ebook

Debbie says

This was definitely an interesting read. A motivational speaker who had spoken at hundreds of conventions, companies and events had his life totally changed all in one night. All because he tried to be a hero and help a woman who was being harassed by her pimp.

It was really sad what happened to him that night, but he let the scars overcome what he was. He had been a hiker, a mountain bike rider, a marathon runner, even an Ironman. He was not even close to any of those things anymore. As a matter of fact, his wife who he truly loved and thought she truly loved him, for what he was, left him. She couldn't bear the scars and his weaknesses any longer. That one sentence tells you what kind of woman she was, a witch with a capital "B". He felt no longer himself nor a man and was majorly embarrassed of his scars.

On an annual summer outing with his friends, in which this was their decade anniversary, he had decided he was not going. He had went the year before and felt like a fifth wheel, especially when he had to visibly show his scars. However, he met a man on a plane who talked him into changing the locale and told him that would make him feel better. Little did he know that new locale would give his life new meaning. Not exactly what he expected, but healing powers just the same.

I myself, thought the corridor part a little strange, but that's because I'm not a usual sci-fi reader nor a fantasy reader. However, I went on with the flow, it kept me interested. I didn't really understand some of it, until the final visit and then I got that knock you in the head "aha" feeling.

This was really a good read. I sometimes got a little tired of Jake's "woe is me" actions, but who's to know how I would be. To be able to do all of those things and then wham - It's a good day when I'm able to climb stairs. So apparently I needed a little more empathy while reading this book. Still, I kept reading, even thinking the corridor would do what he really wanted, not what he really needed. See, I was thinking fairy tale, duh!

Anyway, I did thoroughly enjoy the book for the most part and did end up loving it at the end. It was definitely entertaining and held my interest. I would most definitely recommend this to my friends.

Thanks to Thomas Zondervan for surprising me with this book in a huge box of books. I loved the opportunity to be able to read and review this book.

Danielle Urban says

The Long Journey to Jake Palmer is indeed a journey to behold. Readers will be enticed from the first page to the last. I found myself lost within James L. Rubart's words. The character's journey is a realistic one that we all can relate to at one point in time. We have all felt like we have failed or lost something that we couldn't imagine going on without...yet life forces us to keep moving or to be stumbled upon...

James L. Rubart surprised me with his stunning novel. The tale instantly hooked me. His words were captivating. The struggles were believable. I could feel, sense, and understand the main character's emotions and thoughts. I felt like I was inside, his shoes. The main character, Jake Palmer, is a hero. He stands up for

what's morally right even if the danger is high. He risked his life, to help others. Then, later on, he is still doing good things like motivating others. A positive speaker to helps others move forward and accept themselves in a more positive light. I loved that. I felt that the novel was also speaking out to me. It was easy to connect with Jake Palmer and the other lesser characters within the story. Very emotional and thought provoking. A deeper meaning. A purpose. Life was described as wild and rough as the sea during a storm but we can't move forward until we accept defeat sometimes. Maybe what we had wasn't meant to be. Yes, we all can still be hurt. But we got to make that jump if we planned to move. The writing was superb, well-written, well-developed characters. A plot that moved me forward to the last page. Overall, I loved reading it. I highly recommend The Long Journey to Jake Palmer to readers everywhere.

Melissa says

Rubart has done it again with another uniquely written, stellar novel. The author comes up with the most original, thought-provoking concepts that readers can take lessons from to apply to their own lives. On the surface, the story is engaging. Jake is a fascinating character with many layers and hidden pain. Yet delve deeper and there is a gold mine full of spiritual and personal treasures to uncover. Who wouldn't want to find a mysterious corridor that grants your deepest desires?

Jake Palmer is a corporate trainer who encourages others to see themselves through the eyes of those around them. When a tragic incident shakes his self-worth to its very core, Jake must come to terms with what he has lost. A chance meeting with a man on an airplane leads Jake and his friends to rent a cabin on a lake. Once there, they hear about a hidden corridor that can grant a person's greatest wish. Jake sets out to see if it really exists, and what he finds will challenge everything he thinks about himself and others around him
<https://www.rtbookreviews.com/book-re...>

Robin Luftig says

Excellent book! Rubart nailed it again with this novel. If I haven't said before, treat yourself to the audible version. Jim reads his own work. Who would know it better than he?

Jackie Rogers says

Loved, loved, loved this book. James Rubart tells a story that has hidden pearls of truth. Jake Palmer is such a book. Couldn't put it down as truth resonated throughout. If we will listen, God speaks through any and everything around us. We all hide under labels that have been placed on us since birth. Most not having a word of truth to them. As you follow Jake Palmer through the corridor, you will see yourself and the lies you have let be pasted on your person. We will never please other humans. Never be enough for them. We were created as enough for God. Created pleasing to Him. Find Him and you will discover who He is in you. Thanks to Mr. Rubart for being a faithful servant and sharing truth with all who will hear. Thanks to my nephew for sharing this book with me.

Pamela says

James L. Rubart's novels are typically a blend of fringe suspense, inner-conflict drama, parable, and magical realism - all under the umbrella of Christian fiction. They are unique and quite good. *The Journey to Jake Palmer* is no exception. Equal parts entertaining, enlightening, and evangelical thought-provoking.

The story opens with an immediate intensity. An opportunity presents itself for Jake Primer to extend a kindness to a stranger, but it quickly goes horribly, violently wrong. He is left scarred in more ways than one. And he is left wondering, in his whole life, has he ever been enough? For his mom? His dad? His wife or clients? Maybe it has it all been self-delusion, a sham wrapped in strings of good deeds, good intentions, and best efforts of no earthly value. And if so, how can he become the man he so desperately wants to be?

As Jake joins his long-time, dearest friends on an annual lake retreat he hears rumors about a corridor into another dimension where one's deepest desires are rumored to be had for the asking. And thus, the quest to find the elusive corridor begins. A quest that will either heal his body or destroy his soul. Either way, he feels he has nothing left to lose. Let the journey begin.

Five star beginning, creative Ingenuity, and story-line, mixed with three and four star elements. A couple scenes felt a bit forced; conveniently placed to support the novel's underpinning message. And there was one eye-rolling moment. All in all, a recommendable good read to open-minded fans of unique, edgy Christian Fiction. Especially true if you enjoyed *The Shack*.

FOUR **** Christian Fringe Fiction **** STARS

Staci says

This is my second James L Rubart novel. As with the other novel (*The Five Times I Met Myself*), the message is phenomenal. I was very quickly pulled into this novel, very quickly. Somewhere along the way, the super natural got a bit too much for my reading enjoyment. I admit to not reading fantasy so other readers may very well thoroughly enjoy the super natural aspect to the novel. Jake Palmer's character growth and the overall message were both excellent. While I didn't enjoy this novel as much as *The Five Times I Met Myself*, it was a good novel and one I'd recommend. I look forward to reading other novels by this author.

Paula Vince says

Jake Palmer is a life coach and corporate trainer who was involved in an horrific attack which left extensive burns to the lower half of his body. His wife has left him and his rehabilitation was long and arduous. Jake used to believe all the success principles he'd taught so many others, but since his traumatic injury, he found it all a bit cliched and struggled to go through the motions. While staying with friends at a secluded retreat, he hears local rumors of a secret corridor where the deepest longings of a seeker's heart will be fulfilled. Although he scoffs, he makes it his mission to look into it, just in case.

This isn't my favourite novel by James L Rubart. I felt there was sort of a contrived feeling in the holiday house, with many conversations between the couples introduced specifically instead of evolving naturally.

Does anybody as consistently good-natured and goofy as Peter really exist? Most of all, I found it difficult to warm up to the main character. That may sound a bit harsh, considering all he'd been through. I didn't dislike Jake. It's just that over the long term, I grew depressed by his company and his headspace.

Jake is a mopey life coach, which seems to be a bit of a contradiction. He forever focuses on the negatives of his situation, while there are also many positives. He can still walk, row kayaks, ride dirt bikes, swim, water-ski, resume his job, and the upper half of his body is completely burn free, but he never once seems to express thankfulness for all that. I was hoping for somebody to remind him that the outcome of his attack could have been far worse. It never happens to the extent that I thought he deserved. When he isn't snapping at Peter to stop trying to set him up with women, he seems to be wallowing in self-pity that he's all alone. I wondered why so many women seemed interested to get to know him anyway, since he behaved so morose and rude to them.

I usually enjoy a good romantic thread, but reading all the ways in which Jake tries to fob off Ari, even though he's attracted to her, got a bit old. The story is written in such a way that it's easy to predict they'll get it together eventually. Seeing him keep up his insecure teenage boy act just detracts from the more interesting parts of the story.

I didn't think it started to rev up until about the sixty percent point, when Ryan, the supernatural guide, introduces himself. I did enjoy the way Jake's story becomes a parable, and he represents us all. His main issue turns out to be something we can surely almost all relate to, his response to guilt trips, and false and unnecessary grief about the ways he feels he's fallen short. Portals can be quite fascinating, and there are some intriguing thoughts about where fictional characters really exist, between the pages of books or in the individual imagination? So a tiny bit of Rubart's usual trademark magic did come through. It's just this book seemed to have to wade us through a fair bit more waffle to get there.

I guess every author is entitled to a few misses, and I've had several hits with Rubart's novels so far that I'll look forward to the next one. I liked the reference to Black Fedora coffee, which featured strongly in his last novel, *The Five Times I met Myself*.

Thanks to Thomas Nelson and NetGalley for my review copy.

For more reviews, visit my blog, <http://vincereview.blogspot.com.au/>

Catherine says

Just read it. That is all.

Patricia Beal says

The long journey to (insert your name here)...

So good! A much needed journey. I will be listening to the closing chapters again as I sort through behaviours and thought patterns that are sucking a ton of joy out of life. Thank you!

(happy Audible customer)

Nadine Keels says

A brutal attack and a devastating divorce have left Jake struggling with his identity. When he hears the legend of a hidden place at Willow Lake where his life can be restored (or destroyed?), he can't resist finding out if the legend is true in *The Long Journey to Jake Palmer* by author James L. Rubart.

Having read *The Five Times I Met Myself* by this author, I was expecting a story that would include an element of fantasy, and that's what I got. (I wasn't expecting a nod to Black Fedora, but I got that too, and it was fun!) Jake's journey goes so far as to incorporate pieces of *The Silver Chair* from *The Chronicles of Narnia*, my favorite fantasy series. While this novel spends a good amount of time on Jake's interaction with his friends on their lakeside vacation, I found myself wanting to get back to the legend of the lakeside corridor.

However, while I would've liked to feel that I was mainly learning along with Jake, it felt as if I spent most of the book waiting for him to catch up, to finally get past what seemed like the obvious surface of things. On the whole, I was a little surprised that the story didn't surprise me much.

Still, the novel has an encouraging message of healing, along with its adventure into a realm where the possible and the impossible meet.

BookLook Bloggers provided me with a complimentary copy of this book from the publisher for an honest review.

Ian says

Jake Palmer is a management trainer who helps people discover the labels they're hiding behind and the lies they've allowed themselves to believe. He involves himself in a situation late one night which has dire consequences for Jake's life. He's impacted physically, emotionally and relationally and retreats into a shell.

Eighteen months later he returns to work. In one of his first sessions, he's challenged by a particular man. Coincidentally, on the flight home he sits next to this same man, who we come to know as Leonard. Leonard shares a story of a mystical place on a lake and encourages Jake to rent a house nearby so he can explore it.

Fortunately, he has four supportive friends who after much coaxing get Jake to join them on their annual vacation. But Jake requests rather than going to their usual destination they try the place Leonard proposed. Jake begrudgingly attends and it's not long before he's on a kayak heading down river to find Leonard's mystical place.

It's in the quest and what happens afterward where the story really takes off.

This is Rubart at his excellent best. The writing, the depth of insight in his characters and his ability to weave the mystical, spiritual and natural together is simply outstanding. I loved this novel. You can't not read this novel and not be impacted by the themes of healing, discovery of identify, where we place our significance and the absolute desire our Creator has for us to know Him.

Best novel I've read in 2016 and very highly recommended.

Rachel says

Poignant, funny, creative, redemptive, and brimming with hope and life... another excellent release from James Rubart. Check it out this August!

Holly says

I love how James Rubart stretches the imagination and takes his readers to the edge. This story does that in a masterful way.

Jake Palmer is a motivational speaker and recently divorced. I quickly felt for Jake and his plight. As the story developed and the author reveals more about Jake and his past my compassion and ability to relate to him grew.

The story is very good. (Though, I think I enjoyed *The Five Times I Met Myself* better.) Rubart takes us into the unseen realm and teaches the reader some important truths.

Rubart enjoys giving readers stories that are, for a lack of a better word “supernatural.” But his stories always have a deep spiritual meaning. It took me awhile to truly understand what the message of this story is. When it hit me it was a “wow” moment. As I understood the message of this story I saw how it applied to me.

I also enjoy who the author pulls tidbits from his other books into his current story.

Rubart fans will not be disappointed with this book. If you have never read James Rubart this is a great one to start with.

Disclaimer: I received this book free from the publisher in exchange for an unbiased and honest review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission’s 16 CFR, Part 255.

Iola says

Jake Palmer is a management trainer who makes a living encouraging others to read what’s on their label rather than believing lies about themselves. But following a horrific incident, he finds himself on a journey to read his own label—to believe the truth about himself instead of the lies he’s been fed by the people he loved most, to the point he’s forgotten who he was.

The Long Journey to Jake Palmer is excellent. Excellent writing, excellent characters, excellent plot, and an excellent message about learning and believing the truth about ourselves, not the lie. It’s a novel of spiritual and emotional healing, subtly making the excellent point that the physical healing so many people search for is secondary to spiritual healing.

The metaphor (and I truly can’t believe I’m writing that in a book review!) of forgetting who we are is apt: I

read an article yesterday which said most five-year-olds have creativity at near-genius levels. But we lose that as we get older until we become merely average. It's the same message as Rubart shares with Jake Palmer's story: we forget who we are, and we need to rediscover ourselves.

This is easily one of the best books I've read this year. Recommended—although at over \$10 for the ebook, you might want to treat yourself to the paperback.

Thanks to NetGalley for providing a free ebook for review.
