

DUSTIN GRINNELL

BIOGRAPHY

Dustin Grinnell is a fiction writer, essayist, and marketing writer for American corporations and nonprofits. Currently, he's a content marketing manager at WuXi Biologics. Previously, he's worked in writing roles for Bose Corporation, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research, Charles Rivers Labs, and the Albert Einstein Institution. In these roles, he's written a wide range of content — everything from sales letters and fundraising appeals to grant proposals, magazine articles, websites, videos, podcasts, and advertisements.



At each organization, he honed the ability to pair his scientific background with a passion for the humanities. At the Brigham, he wrote articles on a variety of health-related topics for patients and doctors and founded the popular “Medical Mysteries” column on Brigham Health Hub. At Charles River Labs, he founded the company’s science blog, Eureka, and wrote and produced the video, “Scientists of the World.”

Originally trained as research scientist, Dustin worked at a small biotech company after graduating Wheaton College (MA) and then earning his master’s in physiology from Penn State, where he conducted human-performance research at the Noll Laboratory. With a background in science and medicine, he brings to bear in his writing a fearless curiosity and a passion for rigor. He aims to follow in the footsteps of pioneering immersion journalist Nelly Bly, who famously went undercover to expose a mental institution. Whatever the locale, whatever the subject, Dustin prides himself on his dexterity as a traveler: He knows not only how to navigate new cities and communicate with the locals, but also how to leave behind his biases and assumptions. Using this approach, he’s published articles about the secret life of a con man, a woman in a BDSM relationship, and a winner of the Extreme Mustang Makeover. He’s also profiled AJ Hackett, who invented bungee jumping, and interviewed scientists who visited Bermuda to unearth a new model organism. In 2019, he detailed his own experience with psychosomatic symptoms.



As for his personal adventures, Dustin is equally audacious. He's climbed Mount Kilimanjaro, run the Paris marathon, hitchhiked across New Zealand, and backpacked through Britain, Spain, France, and Costa Rica. These expeditions have been featured as essays in the Sunday travel sections of media outlets, such as the Boston Globe, Philadelphia Inquirer, and Living Now Magazine. In 2015, he went to China to explore traditional Chinese medicine and published travel essays about his experiences that appeared in the LA Review of Books, Lost Magazine, Travelmag, and Perceptive Travel. "Elixirs of Nature" received an honorable mention from the National Association of Travel Journalists. When he returned home from China, he rode his motorcycle across the United States. He detailed these two journeys in three forums: A video, "Finding Words to Live By in Dad's Letters," which appeared on Outside.com; a memoir piece, "Letters from Dad," and an essay, "Walkabout Love." "Letters from Dad" earned third place in the 2017 Writer's Workshop "Hard Times" contest, while "Walkabout Love" won gold in the "love" category in the 2018 Solas Awards for Best Travel Writing. All of these stories were brought together in his (unpublished) book, *Lost & Found*, a collection of twenty-three essays in which he writes about discovering amazing places—and bit by bit, himself.

Finally, to quench his lifelong creative thirst, Dustin also writes commercial fiction that aims to appeal to a broad audience. His main interests include science fiction, which he described in his Writer's Digest article as "sci-fi with a heart," philosophical fiction, and medical thrillers. He's the author of three novels in his "Human 2.0" series that explores the science and perils of enhancing our biology to make us superhuman. *The Genius Dilemma* (2013), his first novel, explores man's obsession with progress through cognitive enhancement. *Without Limits* (2015), the second in the series, explores man's inherent desire to cheat via a nanotechnology-based performance enhancement technology. His novel, *The Empathy Academy* (2022), delves into the use of a gene-hacking technology to correct predispositions to unethical behavior in adolescents. Dustin is also the screenwriter of the feature-length screenplay, "Play," which was named a finalist in the 2013 Acclaim Scripts Film Contest, and co-writer of the feature length film, *The Write Love*. He's also written a one-act play, *Two Clones in a Room*.

Dustin holds an MFA in fiction writing from the Solstice MFA Program at Lasell University, a BA in psychobiology from Wheaton College (MA), and an MS in physiology from Penn State.

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