

# *Musings*

*from a Small Island*

***Everything Under  
the Sun***

An Illustrated Memoir

*Sol Luckman*

# Musings from a Small Island

*Everything under the Sun*

An Illustrated Memoir

*SOL LUCKMAN*

## ALSO BY SOL LUCKMAN

### FICTION

Beginner's Luke  
Cali the Destroyer  
Snooze: A Story of Awakening

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Potentiate Your DNA  
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### HUMOR

The Angel's Dictionary



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ISBN: 978-1-7369595-4-1

Library of Congress Number: 2023906875

First Edition printed in 2024 by Crow Rising Transformational Media through Lulu Enterprises, Inc., 3101 Hillsborough Street, Raleigh, North Carolina USA  
27607

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## DISCLAIMER (aka FULL DISCLOSURE)

Allow me to come clean by emphasizing that, as far as the writing that follows goes, this is a work of *creative* nonfiction. This means that I've been, well, *creative* with some of my facts—transposing, conflating, altering and omitting various elements for storytelling purposes; using artistic license in some of my descriptions; employing pseudonyms liberally to protect the innocent as well as the guilty; and being more than willing on more than one occasion to reinterpret reality to fit my narrative. This is merely what all writers do, whether they're willing to admit it or not. But rest assured that what follows is a more or less accurate memoir from a memorable period of my life spent in a place I love, even though I've since moved along to a new small island.



# MUSINGS

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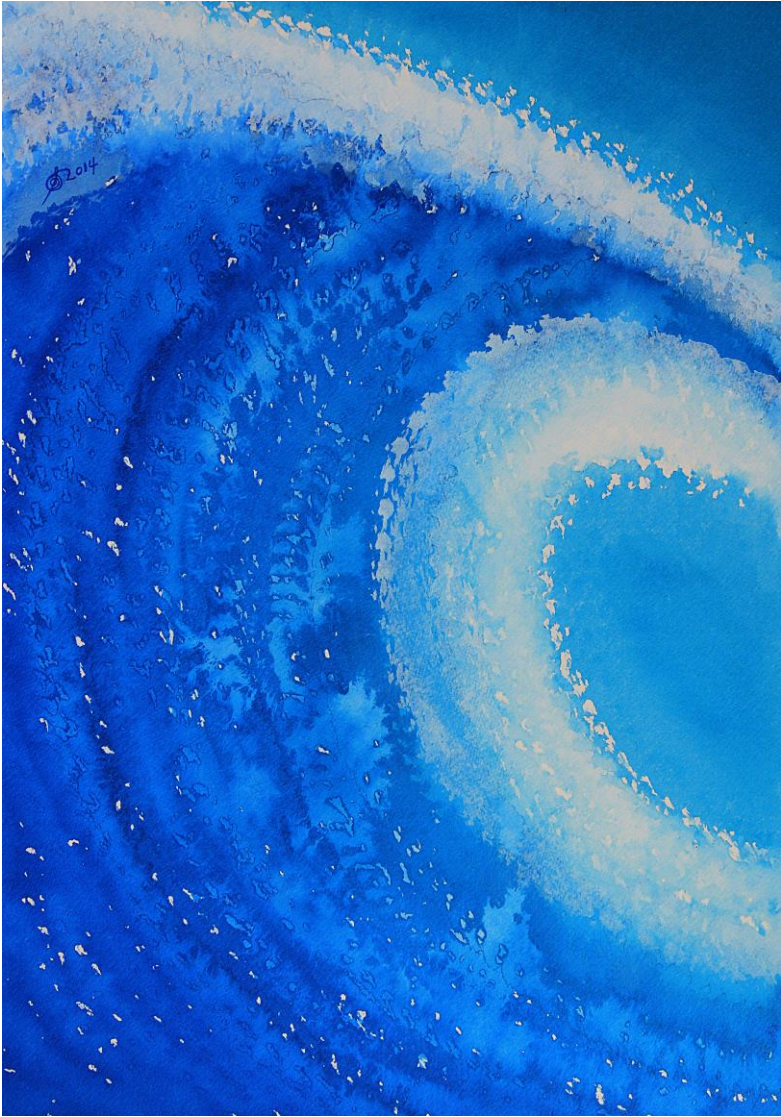




*To my muse. You know who you are.*



*Surf too low and there's nowhere to go but down. Surf too high and you risk being thrown to the sky. The true path is straight and narrow down the eye of the barrel. —Yours Truly*



*Barreled*





20  
ISLAND MUSIC

Toward the end of 2018, I had what you might call a “meta-musical” experience—one where music became a mirror in which I saw myself.

I was seated solo in a popular local restaurant enjoying an award-winning cheeseburger listening to my semifamous musician friend Clay perform an inspired set of acoustic originals—when I realized in the middle of a particularly lovely song he was singing *my* lyrics!

He altered them slightly, but here they are in the original version I gave him titled “Wayward Mariner”:

*I'm a wayward mariner  
Got no home  
All alone  
On the High Seas*

*I'm a cosmos mariner  
ET phone home  
A Singularity  
That no one else sees*

*I bend a lot  
And break a little  
The loneliness  
Tests my mettle  
I'll die tryin'  
Instead of settle  
If you fear the task  
You lack the mettle*

*I'm a wayward mariner  
Got no home  
All alone  
On the High Seas*

*I'm a cosmos mariner  
ET phone home  
A Singularity  
That no one else sees*

*I bend a lot  
And break a little  
The loneliness*



*Tests my mettle  
I'll die tryin'  
And never settle  
If you fail the task  
You win no medals*

*Long before I was born  
Long before you were born  
I signed on the dotted line  
I put down this name of mine*

*I said I'm gonna change the world somehow  
I don't know exactly how  
I'll replace the past with Now  
I'm talkin' revolution*

*I'm a wayward mariner  
Got no home  
All alone  
On the High Seas*

*I'm a cosmos mariner  
ET phone home  
A Singularity  
That no one else sees*

*I bend a lot  
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*I said I'm gonna change this world somehow  
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I'll replace the past with Now  
I'm talkin' revolution  
I'm talkin' revolution  
I'm talkin' revolution*

Taken off guard, I peered up over my burger as Clay, without so much as skipping a beat on his guitar, winked at me like a whiskered, thirtysomething pixie between verses. It had been a while since the two of us had brunch to explore collaborating and I was beginning to think the whole idea was a pipe dream.


We chatted after the set and talked about getting together again—but that hasn't happened yet. Not that I honestly expected it to. Despite his ostensible enthusiasm to do so, it was a miracle Clay ever sat down to talk with me in the first place.

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*It's hard to tell whether Clay is a Gemini, naturally self-absorbed, or both. Or maybe the simplest explanation for his behavior is that, duh, he's a musician.*

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The only reason he did was that—out of sheer serendipity—he ran into a fan of my work in the Miami airport. This encounter apparently caused him to rethink me as someone semifamous enough myself to warrant brunch.

We'd originally met a couple months earlier and connected over some metaphysical concepts we both entertained. But after that, getting him to commit to even a friendly coffee was like herding frogs.

He didn't return my calls, stood me up without so much as an email, and even flaked on his offer to give some professional feedback to my son, a gifted young musician himself.

It's hard to tell whether Clay is a Gemini, naturally self-absorbed, or both. Or maybe the simplest explanation for his behavior is that, duh, *he's a musician.*

In any case, though likable enough in a Dean Moriarty sort of way, he acts intensely interested in everything about you ... yet ends up following through on practically nothing that's not about him.

Having been unable to reestablish radio contact in the past month and a half, I have no idea if Clay plans to record "Wayward Mariner." But the night I heard him play it, he described it as his "current favorite song." I also don't know if he plans to use any of the other lyrics I passed on to him—and I'm starting not to care.

Occasionally, I've considered recording my own songs and maybe even making an album, but I haven't figured out a way to carve out the time to take on a project of that magnitude.

In the meantime, using the contemporary Musical Library of Babylon known as Amazon Prime Music, I've been discovering new artists at a rate that rivals my high school and college listening days.

To be absolutely clear, I despise Jeff Bezos, Amazon's supremely arrogant founder, almost as much as fellow Deep State puppet Mark Zuckerberg. If Amazon and Facebook don't constitute obviously dangerous monopolies that, under antitrust law, ought to be broken up into a thousand tiny pieces, what does?

That said, there's no denying that Amazon has come up with some highly useful innovations—not least of which is Amazon Prime Music. For a modest monthly fee, you can stream what amounts to the world's musical database. We're talking endless ear candy on a global scale at your fingertips.

After years of mostly listening to the same old music, last February Leigh and I finally liberated ourselves from the confines of our antique iPod and embraced Amazon Prime Music. Talk about a paradigm shift.

We could hear a catchy new tune while out and about, Shazam it with Leigh's cellphone to determine its identity, then search and play it (often along with the entire album it appeared on) with Amazon Prime Music in a flash. Speaking of, sometimes the lyrics are even flashed in real time for one's enjoyment and edification.

The best tool for discovering new music to play via Amazon turned out to be Seattle's legendary alternative and indie rock station, KEXP, "where the music matters." KEXP has a popular YouTube channel where its intimate in-station concerts punctuated by fascinating DJ interviews, all beautifully filmed and edited, are available to enjoy worldwide for free.

By delving into the KEXP concert archives, we discovered a plethora of amazing bands, some of which are up and coming, some of



*Inner Rock Star*

which are still almost entirely unknown. We quickly became addicted to the likes of:

- New Candys, an Italian quartet from Venice combining elements of post-punk and Gothic rock buoyed up by a powerful current of shamanic energy;
- Tacocat, a feminist punk quartet from Seattle with a wacky aesthetic and experimentalism reminiscent of early B52s;
- Fontaines D.C., a quintet of college buddies from Dublin, Ireland, whose groundbreaking marriage of politicized spoken word and hard experimental rock could very well make them as famous as U2;
- The Coathangers, a seriously rocking feminist punk trio from Atlanta who split lead vocals and even switch instruments occasionally in concert just to screw with the crowd; and
- Calpurnia, a precocious group of teen indie rockers with dynamite stuff headlined by Canadian Finn Wolfhard (of *Stranger Things* fame), who's practically the reincarnation of Lou Reed ... with the added ability to stay on pitch.



*Shaman's Drum*

[Author's Note: sadly, Calpurnia broke up at the end of 2019, which means like so many good ideas, this one's going nowhere.]

In actuality the above bands represent merely a drop in the bucket of what we've discovered via KEXP. Other fantastic new groups you can check out include Wimps, Mike Krol, the Beths, Camp Cope, Black Belt Eagle Scout, Japanese Breakfast, Snuff Redux, and Art D'Esco.

Note that more established bands also grace the KEXP studio from time to time. Some of my favorites have been Ride, Swervedriver, Film School, Kurt Vile and the Violators, Love Battery, Aldous Harding, Thievery Corporation, and the Pixies.



*Kurt Vile*

I go in and out of phases of listening to music (on the loud end of the spectrum) while painting. I credit some of my more inspired visual output to the astounding influx of new music this past year. Music is a valuable tool for my creativity; I can practically feel new neuronal pathways forming as I jam out.

Begging the question: how on earth did people consistently produce good fine art in the days before recorded music?

One thing Leigh and I discovered

about ourselves by digging into the current musical landscape is that being on the sonic pulse of the world makes you feel a hell of a lot younger.

Additionally, learning that there's still so much genuine musical creativity happening—mainstream appearances notwithstanding—has given us a glimmer of hope for future generations—notwithstanding the predominantly libtardian political views of the current generation of

musicians, who have been dumbed down by Common Core and its ilk until they wouldn't know totalitarianism if it chewed a chunk out of their nether cheeks.

My better half and I also realized that, deep down, our own outward appearances notwithstanding, we're really quite punk. Now, whenever we're faced with a difficult decision, we never wonder what Jesus, Gandhi or some other saintly person might do in a similar situation. Instead, we simply ask ourselves, *What would Johnny Rotten do?*

In the punk spirit, as a bonus and way of concluding this chapter, below are my lyrics to a song ("Safe Space") that shines a light on the infantilizing farce of biblical proportions higher education has become. Enjoy.

*It triggers me  
When you trigger me  
Your stick's big  
But my trauma's bigger  
I say shut up  
You say go figure*

*Safe space  
My escape  
Safe space  
Mind escape  
Education's overrated  
Take what you fear*



*Punk Shaman*

*And let it be hated*

*I'm here to learn  
Not think  
You're here to burn  
Not shrink  
We're incompatible  
Duality stinks*

*I'm right  
You're wrong  
I'll listen  
But not for long  
You've got the proof  
And I can't handle the truth*

*It triggers me  
When you trigger me  
Your stick's big  
But my trauma's bigger  
I scream shut up  
You shrug go figure*



## ABOUT SOL LUCKMAN

A confessed beachaholic and obsessive cultural creative, Sol Luckman has thumbed his nose at mainstream values and society ever since he can remember. Preferring hard play over a so-called honest day's work, these days in the New Abnormal he spends his time on a new small island mostly bodysurfing, painting, and writing—not necessarily in that order and usually not all at once. How while on permanent vacation he became a multi-award-winning and international bestselling author and prolific professional artist is anyone's guess. Possessed of a wonderful family, he eschews dogs and admits to his own rejection issues where certain other domestic animals are concerned. Visit his website, follow his blog, etc., at [www.CrowRising.com](http://www.CrowRising.com).

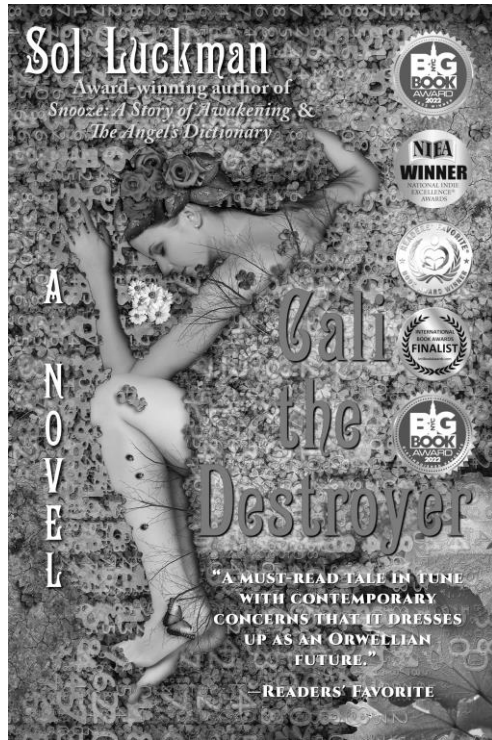


Best friends? Check. Illegal lovers? Check. Mythological entities? Check.

Cali and Juice aren't discovering love; they're discovering they've always been in love—since the dawn of creation.

In this page-turner of a sci-fi tale set in an Orwellian future seeded in the dystopian present, resistance to the Archons appears futile ... that is, until the Goddess and her consort spectacularly reappear straight out of ancient Gnosticism to take on the control matrix of the Fatherland.

Will the Luminous Child awaken in humanity before it's too late?



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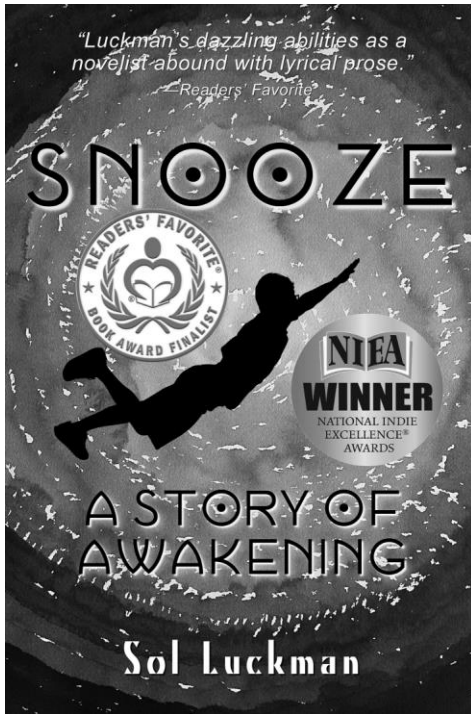
*"While [Cali the Destroyer] has plenty of laugh-out-loud scenes, it is also a cautionary tale. The Orwellian future Cali and Juice are familiar with may also be what ours looks like in several years. Cali the Destroyer shows readers what can happen when evil is allowed to thrive." —Entrada Publishing*

*"Like some raconteur alchemist, Luckman comingles ancient mysticism, engaging characters, and social issues to sublimate the alchemical gold that is unique but timeless storytelling. As a dystopia, the work feels like it's happening right now. As a work of fiction, it feels like the perennial trope of man versus God—except it's hard to tell who the villain or hero is. A simultaneously disturbing and amazing read, you'll probably end up finding your own Philosopher's Stone." —Miguel Conner, Author, Voices of Gnosticism & Host, Aeon Byte Gnostic Radio*

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Could it be there's no such thing as the paranormal ... only infinite varieties of normal we've yet to understand?

From acclaimed author Sol Luckman comes *Snooze*, the riveting tale of one extraordinary boy's awakening to the world-changing reality of his dreams, winner of the 2015 National Indie Excellence Award for New Age Fiction and 2016 Readers' Favorite International Book Award Finalist in the Young Adult-Coming of Age category.



Join Max Diver, aka “Snooze,” along the razor’s edge of a quest to rescue his astronaut father from a fate stranger than death in the exotic, perilous Otherworld of sleep.

An insightful look at a plethora of paranormal subjects, from Sasquatch and lucid dreaming to time travel via the Bermuda Triangle, *Snooze* also shines as a work of literature featuring iconic characters, intense drama and breathless pacing to stir you wide awake!

*“Luckman’s dazzling abilities as a novelist abound with lyrical prose ... If you enjoy colorful characters, a fast-*

*paced plot and stories that tug at your heart, this novel in eighty-four chapters is anything but a yawn.” —Readers’ Favorite*

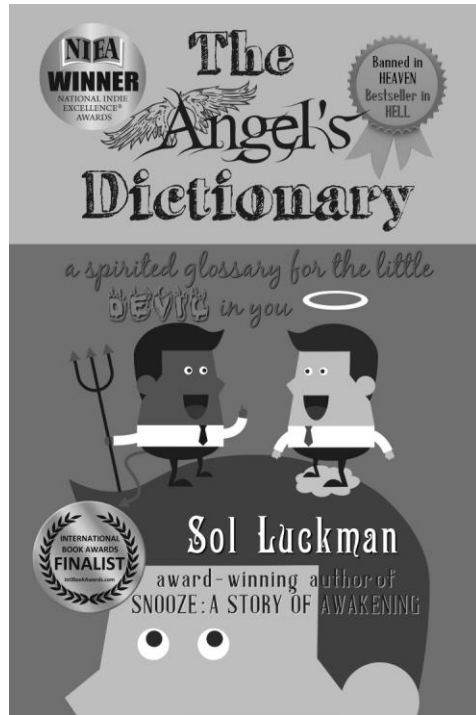
*Snooze is “a multi-dimensional, many-faceted gem of a read. From mysteries to metaphysics, entering the dream world, Bigfoot, high magic and daring feats of courage, this book has it all.”*  
—Lance White, author of *Tales of a Zany Mystic*

*“Snooze is a book for readers ready to awaken from our mass cultural illusion before we self-destruct. Snooze calls out for readers open to the challenging adventure of opening their minds.”*  
—Merry Hall, Co-Host of *Envision This*

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*The Angel's Dictionary* is like a good joint: slim but potent. This uproariously irreverent “tour de farce” received three major recognitions: Winner of the 2017 National Indie Excellence Award for Humor, Finalist in the Humor category of the 2018 International Book Awards, and Finalist for Humor in the 2018 Best Book Awards.

In this knee-slapping dictionary for coming to terms with modern culture (or lack thereof), politics (so-called) and life (such as it is), bestselling author Sol Luckman reinvestigates satire to prove that—though we might not be able to change the world—we can at least have a good laugh at it.



Then again, maybe laughter can transform the world!

**entanglement:** (n.) quantum physics term for when the sheets wrap around two bodies in space.

Taking a page from Ambrose Bierce’s scathing satirical masterpiece, *The Devil’s Dictionary*, *The Angel’s Dictionary* updates the genre to include blistering contemporary references and no small sampling of risqué humor to make adults giggle like mischievous teens.

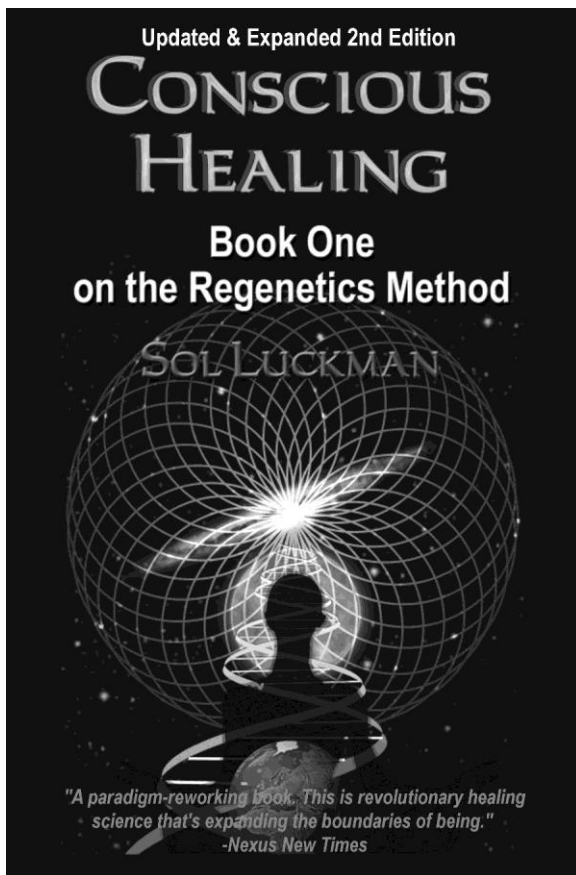
**genetically modified organism (GMO):** (n.) member of the public who has regularly consumed the biotech industry’s food products.

**treason:** (n.) crime against one’s country and its people punishable by reelection.

**shadow side:** (n.) self you encounter when you do not look in the mirror.

Learn more at [www.CrowRising.com](http://www.CrowRising.com).

The classic, definitive book on DNA activation, *Conscious Healing*, now updated and expanded with a wealth of empowering new information, is far more than the inspiring story of the development of a “revolutionary healing science” (*Nexus*).



An unparalleled synthesis of modern and ancient healing wisdom, this leading-edge text is essential reading for anyone interested in alternative medicine, energy healing, consciousness research, quantum biology, human evolution, or personal enlightenment.

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Besides teaching you a leading-edge technique you can perform for your family, friends and even pets, *Potentiate Your DNA* also:

1. Provides a wealth of tried and true supplemental tools for maximizing your results; and
2. Outlines a pioneering theory linking genetics, energy and consciousness that is sure to inspire alternative and traditional healers alike.

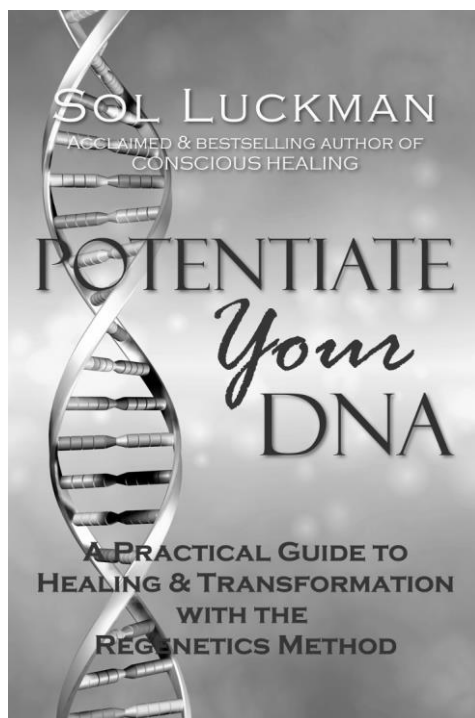
*Potentiate Your DNA* “is both fascinating and an astounding, perhaps even world-changing theory.” —*New Dawn Magazine*

“*Potentiate Your DNA* is brilliant and cutting-edge. Luckman has succinctly and elegantly provided a comprehensible intellectual framework for understanding the profound role of DNA in healing and transformation.” —*Brendan D. Murphy, author of The Grand Illusion*

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Learn more at [www.PhoenixRegenetics.org](http://www.PhoenixRegenetics.org).



Memoir/Art/Nonfiction

\$39.99

Award-winning author and professional artist Sol Luckman showcases his literary and painterly talents in this one-of-a-kind story of an uncommon life on the fair shores of Hilton Head Island, a world-famous vacation destination nestled in the Lowcountry of the Deep South.

Combining fascinating memoir, hilarious comedy and inspirational philosophy, *Musings from a Small Island* is also a stunningly self-illustrated coffee table book any contemporary art aficionado would be proud to display.

You've never read a book like this because, until now, there hasn't been one. Seen from Luckman's charmingly eccentric perspective, Hilton Head comes alive in ways few places have in literature or art.

Visit Sol Luckman's website at [www.CrowRising.com](http://www.CrowRising.com).

