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## Brent Hartinger

### Geography Club

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### Grew up in?

I grew up in a suburb of Tacoma, Washington. It's changed a lot in the last twenty years, but when I was a kid, it was a polluted, small-minded place, and I couldn't wait to leave.

### Childhood ambition?

I wanted to do something wildly creative that would make me fabulously wealthy. By becoming a writer, half my dream came true.

### Favorite sports team?

Uh, next question? (God, does *that* question make me feel like a total loser!)

### Book to take on a deserted island?

*Beloved* by Toni Morrison. Maybe then I'd finally get through the damn thing!

### Favorite city?

Can I say Rivendell?

### Favorite CD?

"Bella Donna" by Stevie Nicks. There's just something about her voice that makes me absolutely giddy.

### Where do you write?

If I were a more disciplined writer, I'd say I'm always writing wherever I go. But I'm not. I don't keep a notebook, and I don't write down on napkins interesting things I see and hear. When I'm not writing, I am so not writing. When I work, I work upstairs in my office in my cute 1904 Victorian. That is all.

### Qualities you most admire?

I like passion, creativity, intelligence, and integrity, not necessarily in that order.

### What do you do to relax?

I play racquetball, hike and camp, read, go to movies and plays, swim, cook dinners for my friends, travel, play computer games, and continue to build my sixty-foot tall flying robot with which I will someday take over the world.

### What classic/contemporary author would you most like to have dinner with?

The best part of being a published writer is meeting so many other writers (as a group, writers are, hands down, the nicest people on Earth, and I'm not biased *at all!*). But there's a terrific writer named George R.R. Martin who I've never met. George, are you listening? I'm free next Thursday. (Stevie Nicks, you can join us too!)

### What classic/contemporary fictional character would you most like to date?

When I was younger, I had big crushes on Ponyboy Curtis in *The Outsiders* and Conrad Jarrett in *Ordinary People*, but unless they've grown up with me, I'm too old for them now. I'd go out on a date with Gandalf, because I think he's so interesting, but it wouldn't last, because he's too old for me. So I'd have to say that hunky Prince Eric from the Disney cartoon, "The Little Mermaid".

### Place where you were/are happiest?

Easy question. Right now, in my house, with my partner Michael. No other time even comes close.

### Most embarrassing moment?

In college, in my first creative writing class, the teacher gave us a writing exercise where we were supposed to write one page of description and one page of dialogue. It wasn't an assignment, but I thought it was, so I turned it in the next class. The teacher mistook it for a short story and literally spent the whole three-hour class telling everyone what a horrible story it was and what a terrible writer I was. Afterwards, my friend said to me, "I can't believe that actually just happened."

### What adjectives would you use to describe your latest book?

I'm a horrible judge of my own work, but I can tell you the compliment I most like to receive (and the one I think I get most often): that my book is a "page-turner." I try hard to make my books engrossing—life without the boring parts!—so I'm thrilled when someone tells me I succeeded.

### Life motto?

What goes around comes around. I've now lived long enough to know that this is so true.