

The Legendary Adventures of Avery "Ace" Craig
An '80s American Teen Epic

**Bodaciously
True**

&



**Totally
Awesome**

Chris Orcutt

CHRIS ORCUTT



33

years as
pro writer

20

novels
written

19

vintage
typewriters

“Sooner or later, you have to turn your back on your literary heroes and do your own thing your own way.”

— Chris Orcutt

Chris Orcutt is a professional writer with over thirty years of experience and more than a dozen meticulously crafted novels to his name. For over a decade, Orcutt immersed himself in '80s teen culture and shunned the internet in monastic devotion to his magnum opus, *Bodaciously True & Totally Awesome*, a 9-book episodic novel debuting in January 2026.

Writing drafts on typewriters and vintage computers, blasting everything from A-Ha to ZZ Top, and drinking enough coffee to fill a swimming pool, he set out to craft an authentic and fearless exploration of the suburban teenage experience in 1980s America. The result prompted one cultural historian to dub him “Lord of the '80s” and another “The American Tolstoy.”

Born in Maine, he has spent most of his life in New York. He attended college in Boston, graduating *summa cum laude*, Phi Beta Kappa, with a degree in philosophy. His professional writing career began at Taconic Newspapers (where he was honored by the New York Press Association), followed by freelance reporting for the *Poughkeepsie Journal*. Orcutt’s earlier fiction—including the Dakota Stevens Mystery Series and *One Hundred Miles from Manhattan*—has earned praise from *Publishers Weekly* and *Kirkus Reviews*.

He loathes bad writing, stoplights, Grammarly, and pretentious people—but loves old movies, *Peanuts* comics, Jamaican Blue Mountain coffee, and cross-country skiing. Orcutt lives quietly in New York’s Hudson Valley with his wife and Muse, Alexas, and their dog Dashiell Hammett.

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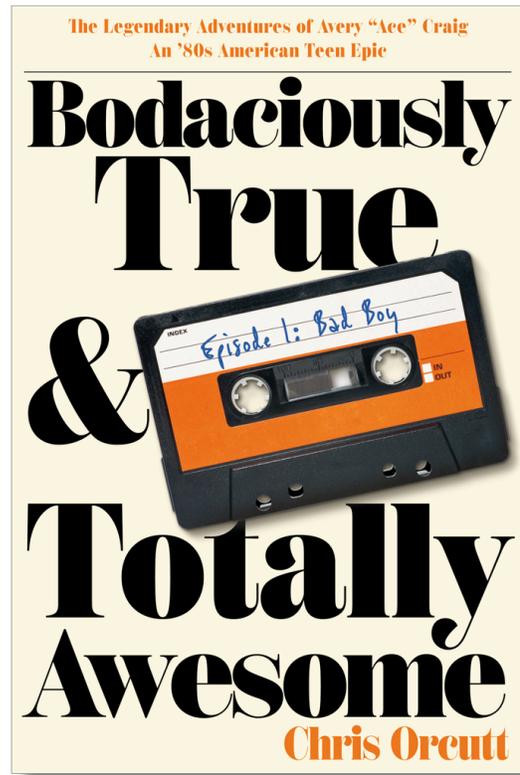
Bodaciously True & Totally Awesome Episode I: Bad Boy

Coming-of-age and teen romance collide in a bodacious and authentic journey through the 1980s...

In February 1986, once-invisible sophomore Avery “Ace” Craig suddenly becomes the most magnetic guy at Hancock High. Armed with a Walkman and mixtapes packed with everything from A-Ha to ZZ Top, Avery charges toward manhood with confidence, charisma, and a genius IQ—but has no clue how to handle what’s next.

During a school trip to D.C., a handshake with President Reagan, a glimpse of his future, and a sexual awakening set off a chain reaction. Girls notice him, his hormones detonate, and his friends are clueless. With no adults to turn to, Ace must navigate the thrilling, terrifying terrain alone—with only a Boy Scout Handbook, his instincts, and a Princess Leia poster to guide him.

Bodaciously True & Totally Awesome, the product of ten years’ relentless craftsmanship and an immersive exploration of teen experience, takes a sensual and unflinching look at teenage relationships. A saga about the freedom, romance, and epic adventure of suburban life in Cold War America, *Episode I: Bad Boy* is for readers seeking a time machine back to the last great American decade.



Book Information

- **Title:** Bodaciously True & Totally Awesome, Episode I: Bad Boy
- **Page count:** 386 pages
- **Genre:** Fiction / Coming of Age, Romance, Literary Fiction
- **Publisher:** Have Pen, Will Travel
- **Publication date:** Jan. 20, 2026
- **ISBN:** 978-1-965999-01-1
- **Trim size:** 6x9 inches
- **Price:** \$ 19.99
- **Available format:** Trade Paperback, Hardcover, Kindle, ePub
- **Available through:** Ingram, Amazon

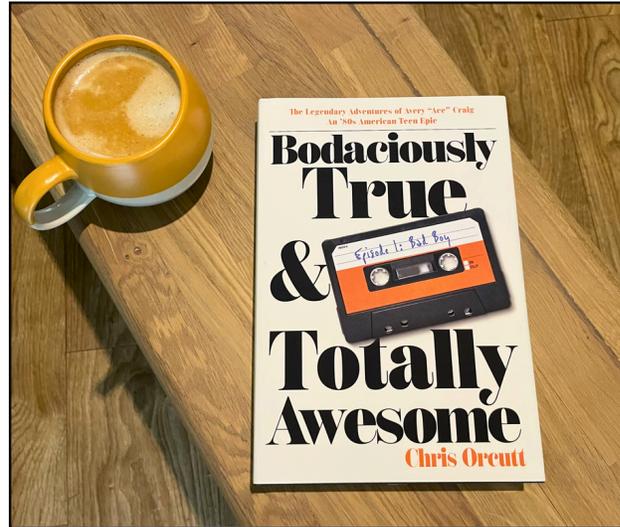
From *Bodaciously True & Totally Awesome*, Episode I: Bad Boy

In the center of the cul-de-sac, there was a *Pennysaver* on the ground, its pages of classified ads flapping madly in the wind. Ordinarily Avery would perform his Boy Scout good deed for the day by picking up the litter and throwing it away, but not today, in this damn cold. The yards were windswept and empty. It was freezing with a 20-mph wind, and it was snowing now. The snow was sticking to the ground, which meant if there was any accumulation, it would be a royal pain in the ass getting home.

His music sounded amazing through the new headphones, which were so big that they fit over his ski cap and doubled as makeshift earmuffs. Although he could feel the wind and the fine snow biting into his cheeks, Avery couldn't hear anything going on outside. It was surreal to see the wintry scene playing out in front of him through his amber-tinted ski goggles when all he could hear was a song he associated with high summer: Boston's ♪ "Foreplay/Long Time." ♪

After two minutes of "Foreplay," as the song reached its crescendo of organ and electric guitar, Inge's house came into view, looming atop the hill across from the entrance to Birch Knolls. Then, as "Foreplay" transitioned into thrusting "Long Time" with its screeching opening guitar solo, the bare shaking trees on her front lawn became verdant in Avery's mind, and he remembered the sultry August afternoon three years ago, when he first met her...

Beneath the leafy maples and oaks that flutter in a dog's breath of a breeze, Inge and



a dozen of her bikini-clad girlfriends are gathered on her plush front lawn, sipping beers, dancing, and wiggling their butts to "Long Time," which blasts from an oversized boombox on the stoop. A long yellow Slip 'N Slide stretches down the hill. Thin streams of water spray out of tiny holes on the Slip 'N Slide, glistening, arcing over the plastic, producing miniature rainbows in the bright sun. The girls—laughing, shrieking, squirting each other with squirt guns, gleefully shaking their heads of wet hair—take turns getting a running start, diving headfirst onto the slick plastic sheet, and careening headlong down the hill.

At the bottom, the girls skid onto freshly mown grass and hose each other's bikini-clad bodies to wash off the clippings.

Fuhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhck. When the girls smile and shout to Avery and wave him up the hill, and he doesn't see a single guy around, a thought pops into his head—a thought at once devastating and euphoric: that he might have been hit by a car and gone to heaven.

“Replete with student assemblies, trysts and field trips, musical notes and footnotes, and the return of Halley’s Comet, **the 1980s comes to life in a way few other novels could achieve**.... Highly recommended ... a different coming-of-age novel that **simmers with discovery**.”

— D. Donovan, Senior Reviewer, *Midwest Book Review*

“...the book might seem just a parody of every adolescent boy’s fantasies. But it’s **so well-written** that the near-sexual encounters lend depth to Ace’s adolescent struggles. Avery can be disarming one minute, disingenuous the next as he tries to resist the sirens’ call.... This is the first in Orcutt’s nine-part series. At the end, **readers are left on a cliffhanger**, like those of ’80s soap operas.... As Ace himself might say, ‘Awesome, Dude.’”

— *Blueink Review* *Starred Review*

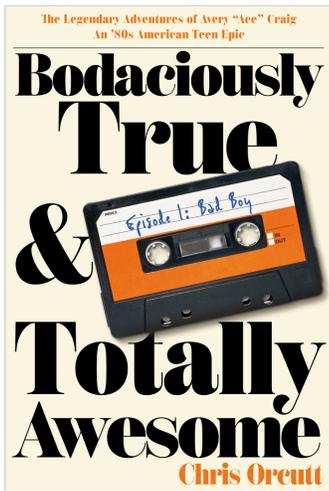
“A comical teen coming-of-age novel set in the 1980s from author [Chris] Orcutt. ... [Ace] must navigate the intricacies of teenage crushes and fooling around while also pulling off seemingly impossible stunts such as making President Reagan laugh. ... **A light-hearted, swift adventure that sees its young protagonist woo just about everyone he encounters**.”

— *Kirkus Reviews*

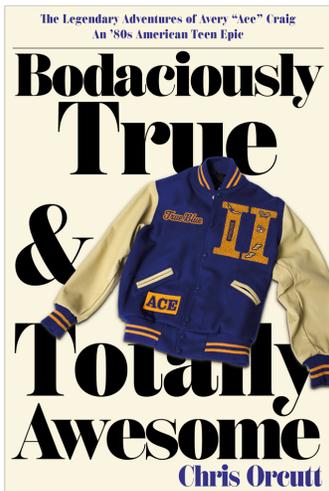
“Like other groundbreaking novels, **Bodaciously defies and transcends existing labels**. It’s a coming-of-age story, a love story, an adventure story, a thriller, and an odyssey; it’s what you’d get if you put *War and Peace*, *The Odyssey*, and *Fast Times at Ridgemont High* **into a supercollider**; it’s an epic-length tale about an age group that has seldom been taken seriously in literature—teenagers—and it’s written for adults.”

— Summer Jensen, Ph.D., from the Foreword

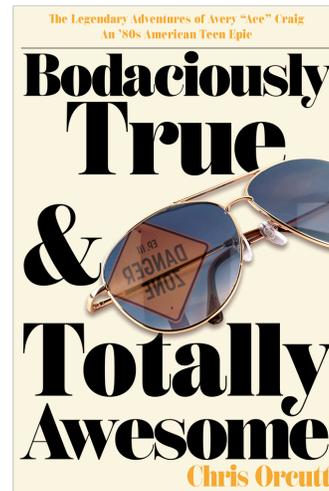
**A Nine-Book Episodic Novel About Teens in the 1980s.
A New Genre—the Teen Epic.**



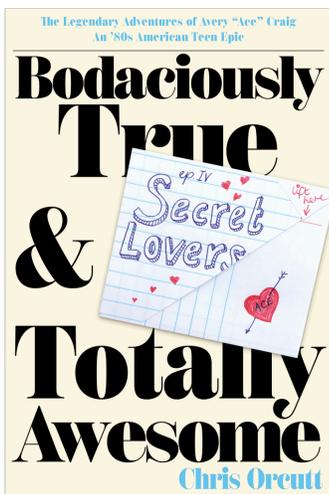
Episode I: Bad Boy
Jan. 2026



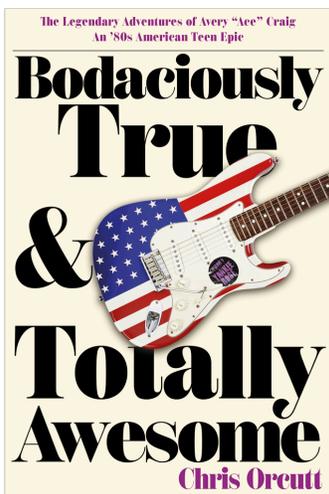
Episode II: True Blue
April 2026



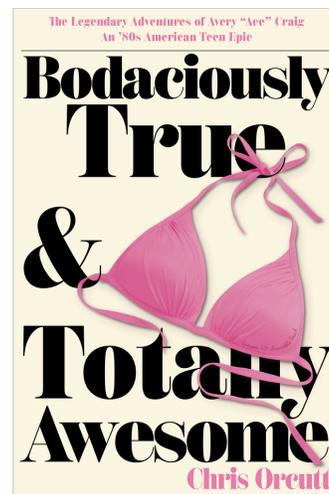
Episode III: Danger Zone
July 2026



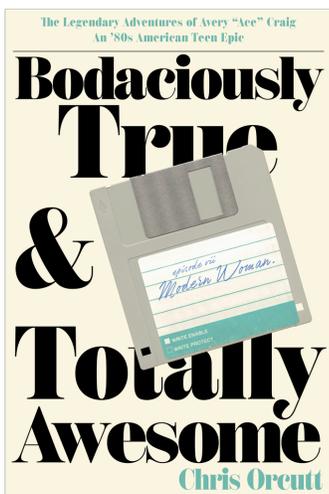
Episode IV: Secret Lovers
Oct. 2026



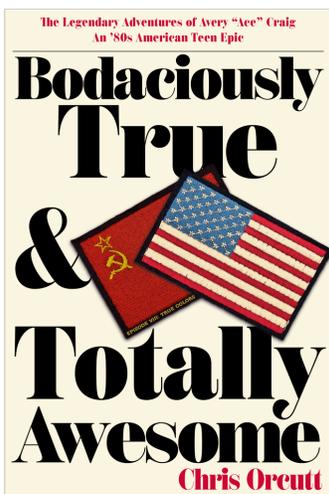
Episode V: Yankee Rose
Dec. 2026



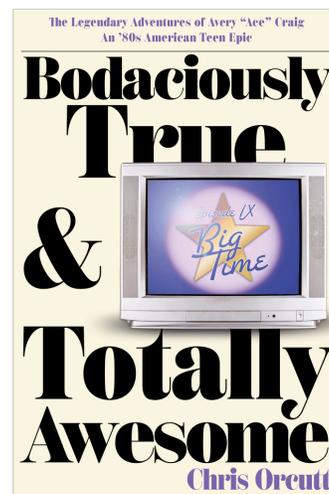
Episode VI: Invisible Touch
March 2027



Episode VII: Modern Woman
May 2027



Episode VIII: True Colors
Sept. 2027



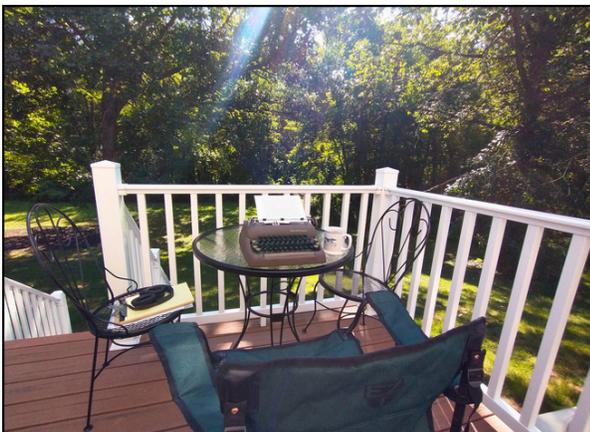
Episode IX: Big Time
Nov. 2027

A Bodacious Q&A with Chris Orcutt

What inspired you to write *Bodaciously True & Totally Awesome*, a 9-book episodic novel about teens in the 1980s?

In 2015, when I started this project, I was feeling nostalgic about my teen years, and I started looking at how over-parented many teens are today and how under-parented or outright unparented many teens of my generation were. I also recalled from my own reading that there weren't many authentic coming of age stories out there, and that the ones we've been taught to revere didn't ring true to me.

Once the characters were born and starting to evolve, I realized what an amazing time that had been to be a teenager—the freedom most of us had, and the double-edged sword that accompanied that freedom—and I decided I wanted to write the ultimate coming of age story: something that wasn't just true for the 1980s but was emotionally timeless. I want readers in 2086, 2186 and 2286 to say that although the details like technology have changed, the emotions haven't.



Is it true that to write *Bodaciously* you went totally analog and isolated yourself for a decade?

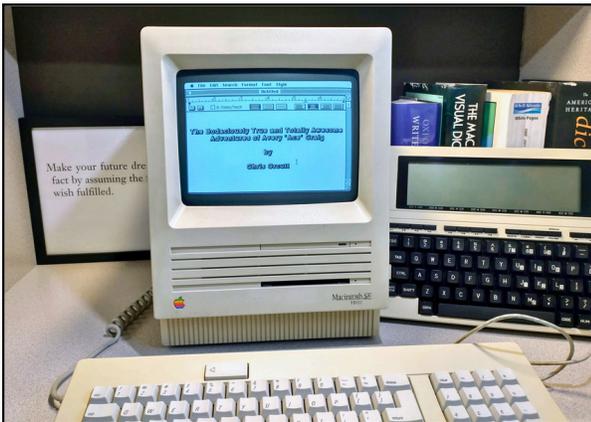
Well, I used the internet about once a week for research and email, but I cut off my connection to it during the workweek. I stopped posting on social media, didn't have commercial television, and didn't listen to the radio, consult a news "feed," or read newspapers at all, so I had virtually no idea what was going on in the world. I only watched TV shows and movies from 1987 and earlier, and I restricted my music (almost 100%) to songs and bands from before 1987. I decorated my office with posters and images from that period as well.

I sequestered myself like this because writing novels requires total immersion—especially if you're trying to tell a story about events of 40 years ago. You need to summon up those details from your memory, and to do that your fictional world has to be more real to you than the world your body is living in. This means you can't have distractions, and you really can't have things around you that would be extreme anachronisms in the period you're writing about. Whenever I was drafting new words on the computer, I tried to use programs that gave me the option of simulating a monochrome monitor—amber or green—because that's all we had back then to write on. That, or a typewriter.

A Bodacious Q&A (continued)

How much of Bodaciously is autobiographical—that is to say, how much of you is in Avery “Ace” Craig?

Exactly 13 percent. :) No, seriously, although a few of the situations Avery finds himself in were inspired by personal experiences, those experiences were then fictionalized heavily and distilled or heightened for effect. Avery has a few of my character traits, but he also has some inspired by people I knew back then, and some that are entirely his own.



Describe some of the interesting things you learned about the '80s when you were doing research for Bodaciously.

One item I was reminded about while researching the '80s for the novel was the story of the *MOBRO 4000*, a garbage barge from New York City. For nearly all of 1987, the barge traveled down the US Atlantic Coast, the Caribbean, the Gulf of Mexico, and the Coast of Central America (all the way to Belize) trying to get rid of its

garbage. Eventually, the barge had to return to New York to be incinerated.

Another interesting item was discovering that the USSR had checkpoint zones with varying levels of security measures to prevent its citizens from escaping. Any citizen who was 15–30 km from the USSR border would be subjected to KGB surveillance and document checks; and the closer you got to the border, the more elaborate and deadly the security measures became. I'm talking lookout posts, guard dogs, sand traps, sound and vibration sensors, minefields, machine gun pillboxes, and inward-curving fences—to prevent citizens from escaping.

A final bit of trivia I learned was this: in a March 1986 *New York Times* article, fashion designer Tommy Hilfiger made a now-famous declaration about himself:

“I think I am the next great American designer. The next Ralph Lauren or Calvin Klein.”

Saying that took serious *cojones*. The guy didn't wait around for someone to crown him or pass him the torch; he knew he was good and that the rest of the world would catch on to that fact eventually.



A Bodacious Q&A (continued)

Some readers and reviewers have noted the amount of vividly depicted teen sex in the nine books of *Bodaciously*. Why did you feel it was necessary?

I grappled with these questions daily: “How much sex should I show in the novels, and how much detail do I need to get into? Where’s the line between a character’s sensual description of a new experience and pornography?” I think the difference is in the quality and beauty of the writing, so that’s what I strove for: descriptions of these experiences that are beautifully written but also true to the characters.

More than anything, I wanted the novels to be authentic, and I knew that if I glossed over “the sex stuff,” *Bodaciously* would be just like 90 percent of other coming-of-age novels. Here’s the thing: everyone knows that sexual awakening and experience (and learning what true love is) are important aspects of teen development, but it seems like most novelists are afraid to present these experiences in stark terms. I wasn’t afraid to approach “the sex stuff” head-on because I knew that, at least for teenage males, thoughts of sex occupy their minds all the time, and if I had a male teen protagonist who was asexual, that wouldn’t be true. There might have been few of those guys back in ’80s suburbia, but I didn’t know them.

What has writing and publishing a nine-book, 1.25-million-word novel taught you about yourself?

A lot of things, but I’d say the most important one is that I’m now an authority. Mind you, I say I’m an “authority” and not a “master”; I agree with Hemingway, who said of writers, “We are all apprentices in a craft where no one becomes a master.”

When I was a young writer, I hadn’t produced anything good enough to make me consider myself an authority. However, with *Bodaciously* I’ve done something monumental and original, something that has never been done before in the annals of American literature: writing a 9-book episodic novel and inventing a new genre—the teen epic. I now have the confidence to make a bold declaration like Tommy Hilfiger did in 1986, and here it is: *I believe I am the next great self-taught American novelist. The next Mark Twain or Ernest Hemingway.*

Now, like Mr. Hilfiger, I just have to wait for the naysayers to catch up.



Inspiration for Writing an Epic Novel

1.25

million
words

4000

pages

2x

longer than
War and Peace

3650

days to
write

22K

cups of
coffee



“It is because we have had such great writers in the past that a writer is driven far out past where he can go, out to where no one can help him.”

— Ernest Hemingway

“It always seems impossible until it’s done.”

— Nelson Mandela



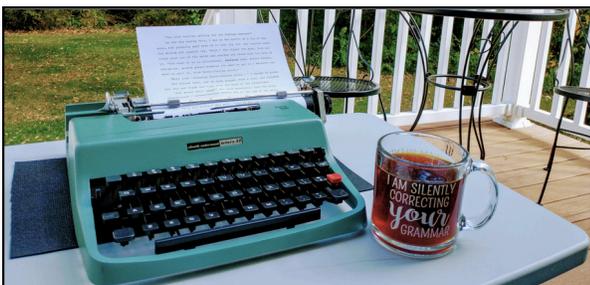
“There are just certain human beings able to put one foot in front of the other relentlessly, psychologically able to do it, whereas other people would fail.”

— Peter Hillary, son of Sir Edmund Hillary

Talking Points: Book & Author

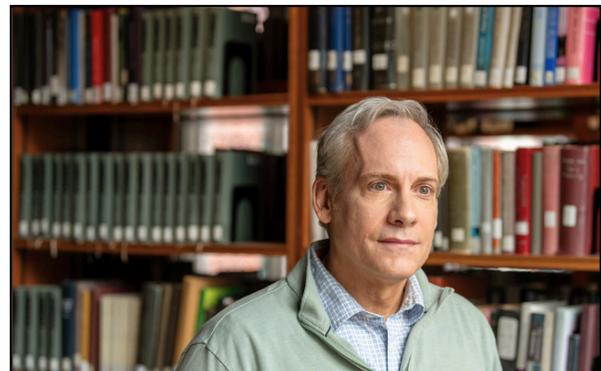
Editorial Angles / Talking Points

- A novel about teens in the '80s but written for the adults who lived it.
- The 9 episodes of the novel feature the defining events from 1986 and 1987, with some episodes dropping exactly 40 years after the events inside them.
- The glossing-over of sex in most coming-of-age literature.
- Why 1986 was the '80s seminal year.
- Why "Generation X" is an idiotic label.
- The real '80s for teens wasn't a John Hughes movie.
- Why *The Catcher in the Rye* is outdated.
- Orcutt's decade-long journey to write a 9-book epic-length novel about teens in the 1980s.
- A writer goes offline for a decade and immerses himself in the '80s: no internet, no social media. Also, no distractions.
- Why the author wrote all the early drafts in pencil and with typewriters.
- The novelist as auteur: writing, editing, promoting and publishing solo, with no likes, no support, no advance.



Podcast Talking Points

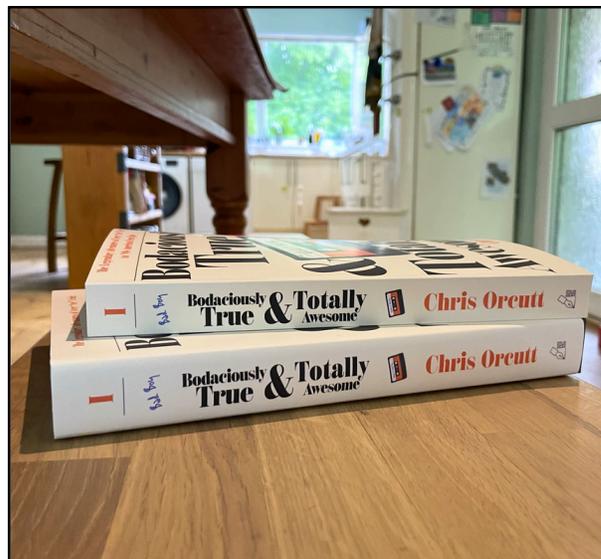
- Finally, a novel about the 1980s that isn't fluff or cobbled together using cliches by authors who didn't live it.
- Truly bingeable reading: a gigantic novel that will be published in 9 parts over two years.
- Why 1986 was the seminal year of the 1980s, and why the music and MTV were so important.
- Why there's a lot of sex in *Bodaciously*.
- What it's like not to be on the internet or social media for a decade.
- Why "Generation X" is an idiotic label, and why we are the way we are.
- What it was like for our generation: to be underparented or outright unparented, and the good and the bad that came from all that freedom.
- The work involved in writing, editing, promoting and publishing by yourself.
- What it's like to write a novel that is twice the length of *War and Peace*.



***Bodaciously* — Book Club Catnip**

The nine books of *Bodaciously True & Totally Awesome* are perfect for adult book clubs and discussion groups. While the novels are about teens in the 1980s, they're written *for* adults. The language, mature themes, and intimate situations make them unsuitable for younger readers. (*Bodaciously* is not YA.) The books are sure to be controversial and prompt debate on a range of subjects:

- The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly of being a teen in the '80s.
- How under-parented or outright unparented teens were in the '80s.
- The fashion, trends, music, movies, and TV shows from the '80s, and what your favorites were and why.
- The many types of cliques in high school life, and which one(s) you were a part of.
- Teen Sex: in literature and real life.
- Why most coming-of-age novels gloss over uncomfortable issues like sex, alcoholism, drug use, dangerous or illegal teen behavior, and domestic abuse.
- What it's like to parent a teenage boy.
- How current events affected you when you were a teen.
- The differences between being a teen in the '80s and being a teen today.
- How a book about teens in the '80s can take you back to whatever decade you were a teen, and the experiences all generations have in common.



Here are a few discussion questions suggested by the author to be a catalyst for your next *Bodaciously* book club get-together:

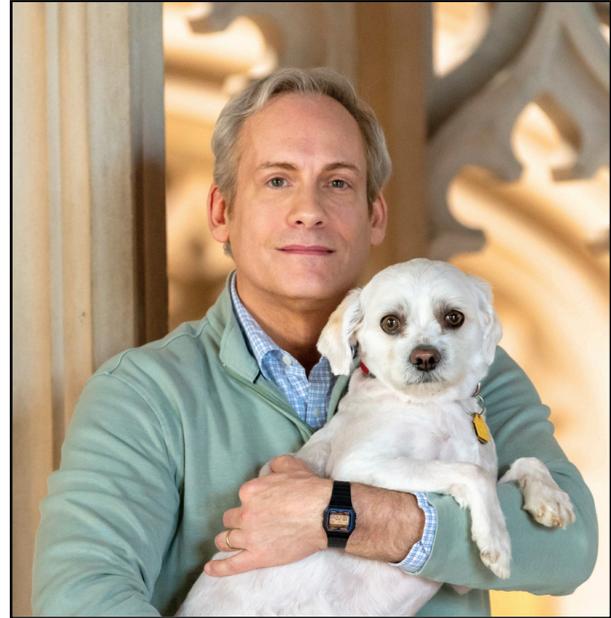
- What parts or characters took you back to when you were sixteen, seventeen?
- Which character were you back then?
- How did certain scenes make you feel?
- Were there moments where you said, “Yup ... Orcutt nailed it. That’s exactly how it was”?
- Were there moments where you said, “Nope ... not my experience at all”?
- What aspects of life were better then than they are now? Which aspects are worse today? What about 40 years ago do you miss? What don't you miss?
- If this book gave you a time machine for one do-over—what would it be?

A Note from the Author

There was a time ... before smart phones and the internet, when music was played on cassette tapes or vinyl records; CDs (compact discs) were a brand-new innovation; and phone calls were made on push-button or rotary-dial telephones. It was a time when most households didn't have a computer, when gasoline was under a dollar per gallon, and MTV was king. The time I'm speaking of is the mid-1980s—possibly the greatest time ever to be a teenager in America.

Bodaciously True & Totally Awesome offers readers a truly immersive experience: in the music, culture, fashion, lingo, customs, and everyday details of teenage life in the '80s. Through these nine books (or episodes), I'm offering readers a time machine back to this magical but challenging era.

Bodaciously tells the story of Avery and his high school friends against the backdrop of seminal events of 1986–87, including the return of Halley's Comet, the Challenger disaster, the Chernobyl meltdown, the Reykjavik conference, the “Garbage Barge” fiasco, and President Reagan's Berlin Wall speech. Over the course of two years, Avery goes on adventures across the United States and to Europe; crosses paths with '80s celebrities and political leaders; navigates the perilous, tempestuous seas of sex and romance; learns the nature of true love; endures death, loss, and hardship; and transforms from a boy into a young man.



I'm confident that I have written the next great American novel, a sweeping and *so choice* coming-of-age story that tells the story of my generation's experience (“Gen X”)—a generation whose childhood and teen experience has been scandalously absent from American literature.

All nine books are already written and will be published between Jan. 2026 and Nov. 2027—about one book every twelve weeks. I'm hoping you'll join me in this journey and become a driving force behind the creation of a new genre in literature: the teen epic.

Join me and let's make history together. Buckle up and rock on!

Bodaciously Yours,

Chris Orcutt

P.S.: You're welcome. :)

The Legendary Adventures of Avery "Ace" Craig
An '80s American Teen Epic

Bodaciously True & Totally Awesome

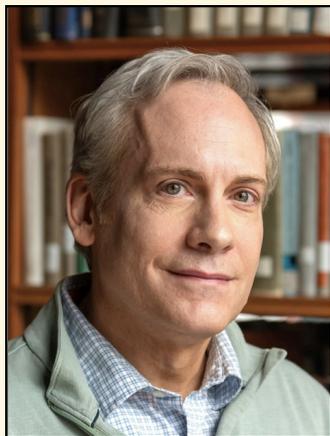
Chris Orcutt



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- **Print ARCs Available from Author**
- **Available for Features, Radio & Print Interviews, Podcasts, '80s Commentary, Writing Process**

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Chris Orcutt is a professional writer with over thirty years of experience and more than a dozen meticulously crafted novels to his name. A deliberate throwback, he writes early drafts in pencil or on a typewriter and rarely goes online. He loathes bad writing, stoplights, Grammarly, and pretentious people—but loves old movies, *Peanuts* comics, Jamaican Blue Mountain coffee, and cross-country skiing. Orcutt lives quietly in New York's Hudson Valley with his wife and Muse, Alexas, and their dog Dashiell Hammett.

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