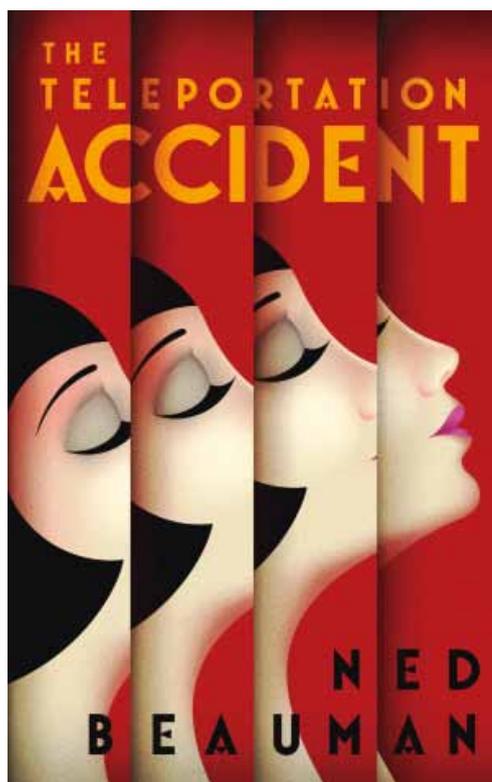




Reader's Guide



Other novels by Ned Beaman
Boxer, Beetle (2010)

The Teleportation Accident Ned Beaman

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About the author

Ned Beaman's debut novel, *Boxer, Beetle* was published in 2010. It was shortlisted for the Guardian First Book Award and the Desmond Elliot Prize, and winner of the Writers' Guild Award for Best Fiction Book. He went on to be named by BBC2's *Culture Show* as one of their 12 Best New British Writers in 2011.

Ned Beaman was born in 1985 and lives in London. He has written for *Dazed & Confused*, *AnOther* and *The Guardian*.

The Teleportation Accident

Three events occur.

In 1679, the ceiling of the Theatre des Encornets in Paris collapses, killing 25 members of the audience and the set designer Adriano Lavicini. Are the rumours true that Lavicini made a fatal pact with cosmic evil?

In 1938, at the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, the physicist Professor Franklin Bailey comes close to perfecting a radical new technology that could win the next war before it starts. But what are the shadowy forces at work on campus?

In 1962, in a small flat in West Berlin, Egon Loeser looks back over his strange and eventful life. From the experimental theatres of Berlin to the absinthe bars of Paris, his biggest question still remains: how can it be that a handsome, clever, charming, modest guy like him couldn't get laid more often?

Discussion points

The Teleportation Accident covers a vast time span, taking us from 17th-century Venice to a Los Angeles 17,000 years later. Although each chapter is set in a specific year, in a specific place, do you think that there is a sense that time and space are slipping?

The Teleportation Accident has a frenetic tone and moves at a fast pace: for the reader is this tiring or exhilarating?

Egon Loeser has been described as shallow, self-centred, and self-absorbed. However do you agree with Phil Baker's review in *The Times* 'Loeser starts out selfishly detached from world affairs and by the end of the book he supposedly begins to 'care', but Beaman's excessive cleverness still has something callous about it'.

The Teleportation Accident has many narrative threads and a vast array of characters. Does Ned Beaman successfully bring these together to create a coherent novel?

Do you agree that the ending of *The Teleportation Accident* has a 'brilliant finale'?

Themed reading

Mike Davis *City of Quartz*
Jake Arnott *The House of Rumour*
Jennifer Egan *A Visit from the Goon Squad*

Useful links

[Publisher's website](http://www.hodder.co.uk)
<http://www.hodder.co.uk>

[Ned Beaman's website](http://www.nedbeaman.co.uk/)
<http://www.nedbeaman.co.uk/>

[The Guardian interview with Ned Beaman](http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/2012/jul/22/ned-beaman-teleportation-accident-interview)
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/2012/jul/22/ned-beaman-teleportation-accident-interview>