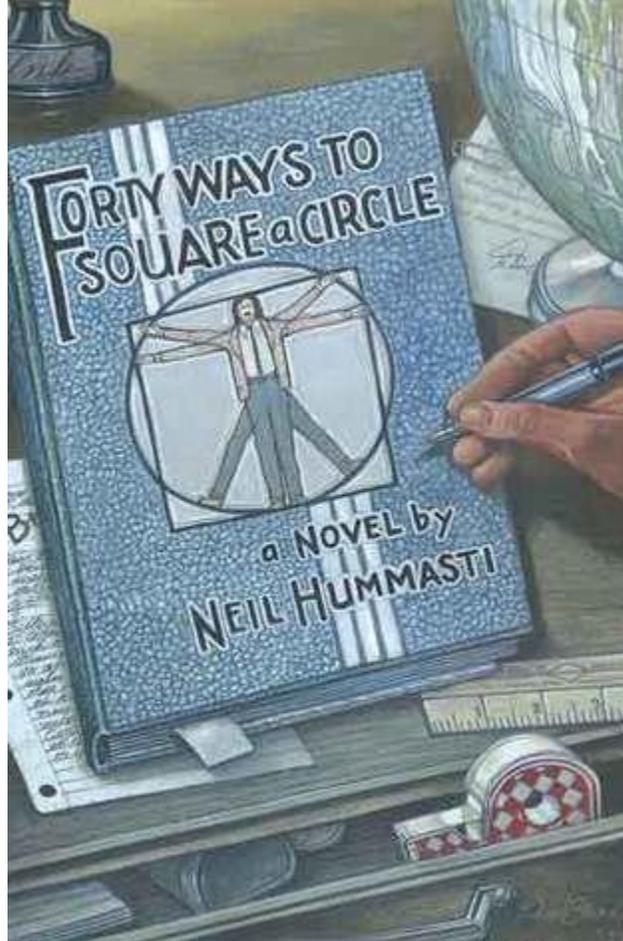


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## Forty Ways to Square a Circle

by  
Neil Hummasti

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The year is 1996 and the coastal high school where Casey Merriman teaches English is about to go technology-mad and scrap the humanities. On the home front, Merriman is responsible for the care of an elderly aunt who battles a growing dementia. The two competing derangements will plunge Merriman into turbulent descent straight out of Dante and propel him toward a bizarre but redemptive climax. The book is available at <https://neilhummast.com>.

## COMMUNITY REVIEWS

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Nov 06, 2018 [Arnie](#) rated it ...

This a powerful and moving story with a lot to say about the educational system in America. It's also a realistic and eye-opening account of what it is to be a care-giver to an aging relative with dementia. It's beautifully written with language that sings. It's both heartbreaking and uplifting. This novel deserves to be read.

## PUBLISHERS WEEKLY REVIEW

This bittersweet story commits to its poeticized realism, relying on the everyday and the unspoken to further conflicts. It is when the unspoken manifests itself that the story acquires new levels of depth, and the light touch the author utilizes is commendable.

The execution, and specifically the author's refusal to guarantee any characters a happy ending that a lesser writer might hand to them, elevates the proceedings considerably.

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Nov 12, 2018 [Matt Love](#) rated it ...

*Forty Ways to Square a Circle* is the best book about the challenges of being a caring and enlightened public high school teacher that I've ever read, and I've read every novel about teaching high school in the history of American literature. It was obviously written by a real teacher, which Neil Hummasti was, and the book is remarkably prescient in predicting what happened to American public education in the two decades after the novel unfolds. The novel also features some memorable writing about rain, the landscape in and around Astoria, a unique city on the Oregon Coast, astride the Columbia River as it prepares to empty into the Pacific Ocean. Check this novel out, and thank goodness Neil Hummasti's writing has finally been made available to readers. He passed away from cancer in 2011, but his words and images now live on.

[Sarah](#) rated it \*\*\*\*\* 5 Stars

[Nov 06, 2018](#)

[Maari Hummasti](#) rated it \*\*\*\*\* 5 Stars

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[Rosemarie Sweeney](#) rated it \*\*\*\*\* 5 Stars

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[Laura](#) rated it \*\*\*\*\* 5 Stars

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[Michael Sweeney](#) rated it \*\*\*\*\* 5 Stars

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[S. Rebecca](#) rated it \*\*\*\*\* 5 Stars

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[Laura Hummasti](#) rated it \*\*\*\*\* 5 Stars

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