

## Station Grand

**Craig Hurd-McKenney**

**Noah Bailey, Illustrator**

Oni Press (Apr 8, 2025)

Hardcover \$17.99 (80pp)

978-1-63715-628-5

An astronaut suffering from insomnia is stalked by a presence aboard a space station in the ominous graphic novel *Station Grand*.

Michael returns to Station Grand for a long solo assignment. His only company is a computer, which tracks his shortening sleep cycles over the weeks. A drop in the ship's oxygen levels indicates the possibility of another life form aboard, though the computer determines no cause for the anomaly. When Michael sees a terrible vision from his past, he investigates further, risking his health and his life in a quest for the truth.

Claustrophobic and creepy, the book is an effective psychological horror story with satisfying scares. It also probes into the long-term effects of trauma, its narration steady and confident. The black-and-white illustrations reflect different styles—realistic line art that depicts Michael's regular, wakeful actions and dark, grainy images that cover his excursions from consciousness.

A bonus story and an enlightening afterword reveal the creators' fascinating connections to the book through their own experiences with insomnia-induced visions and sleep paralysis. These elements are innovative and intriguing, expanding on the subject of sleep trauma and using a "tri-narrative" to reveal three different points of view, piece by piece, as the pages unfold.

*Station Grand* is a tense graphic novel in which an astronaut clings to reality, confronting his past while battling insomnia.

PETER DABBENE (March / April 2025)

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