

## INTERVIEW MATERIALS

*The Unfrozen Few, Book One: Welcome to the Future*  
by Randy Boyd

### **Overview for Interviewers**

*The Unfrozen Few* is a speculative mystery series that blends science fiction, social history, and character-driven drama. The novel explores the long-term consequences of the AIDS crisis, institutional power, family legacy, and what it means to survive history rather than be remembered by it.

Author Randy Boyd brings lived experience, cultural memory, and speculative imagination to a story about people who were cryogenically frozen during the height of the AIDS epidemic and awoken decades later in a world that has moved on without them.

### **About the Book**

In the 1980s, eleven AIDS patients were cryogenically frozen by a secretive biotech operation run by a powerful and unconventional family of black scientists. In the 1990s, a cryogenic catastrophe led the world to presume they had died.

They did not.

Unbeknownst even to the company that froze them, the patients survived—only to awaken decades later in present-day America, hidden inside a facility operated by the same firm. As they undergo a controlled reintegration program, they must learn to live with one another, navigate a transformed world, and confront the unresolved lives they left behind.

At the center of the story is Dr. Nathan Black, a 30-year-old black gay man and the estranged son of the notorious family behind the experiment. As Nathan searches for the truth about what went wrong—and what happened to his missing cousin, Herbie—he is forced to confront his fractured family, a buried catastrophe, and a legacy built on secrets, power, and survival.

### **Conversation Themes**

- The AIDS crisis and cultural memory
- Survival versus erasure
- Medical ethics and institutional power
- Family legacy, secrecy, and betrayal
- What it means to outlive your own era
- The difference between being cured and being healed

### **About the Author (Short)**

Randy Boyd is a writer whose fiction focuses on black, gay protagonists living with HIV/AIDS. His novels have earned five Lambda Literary Award finalist honors. He has been living with HIV/AIDS since 1985.

### **Suggested Interview Questions (Optional Use)**

- What first sparked the idea for *The Unfrozen Few*?
- Why was speculative fiction the right form to tell this story?
- How does lived experience shape the emotional core of the novel?
- What does it mean to “survive history” rather than be remembered by it?
- Why was it important for the scientists in the story to be black and unconventional?
- What conversations do you hope the book opens, especially for younger readers?