

Praise for Atomic Express

Mark Zimmerman's historical fiction brings to life the most unusual transportation of Uranium 235 from Oak Ridge, Tennessee, to Los Alamos, New Mexico, for use in the world's first atomic bomb ever used in warfare, Little Boy. His effective approach to storytelling, because of his lengthy career in journalism and based on his extensive experience doing research, enables him to show the intricate details of such a unique transportation method. He blends in characters (historical and fictional) that both interest the reader and add authenticity to the story.

The Oak Ridge history story, within which the *Atomic Express* fictional story occurs, is one of our nation's most renowned. Zimmerman is true to the history as he was a reporter for *The Oak Ridger* newspaper early in his journalism career and thus understands the history of the East Tennessee area. He also realizes the need to retain accuracy even while creating fiction within the parameters of that history.

Being a historian, I enjoyed reading *Atomic Express* and found the history to be accurate. Basing his story on what was itself a most unusual transportation method considering the enormous value of the highly enriched uranium, Zimmerman has created details that make the important mission more readily understandable. I found *Atomic Express* to be a welcome addition to the Oak Ridge story and the Manhattan Project mystique.

Ray Smith
Oak Ridge City Historian
Tennessee Historical Commission Commissioner

Mark Zimmerman spent his career as a journalist. He has the eye of a historian and the ear of a great storyteller. While most of us are familiar with the newsworthy events surrounding the development of the first atomic weapons, Zimmerman creates a compelling and authentic novel that explores the what-ifs and maybes of the transport of uranium between Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and Los Alamos, New Mexico. From the opening pages of *Atomic Express*, you know that this story will take you on a fascinating tale of history and imagination.

Dr. Jay Thomas
Professor of Educational Psychology
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