

curl them, straighten them, or have them adjusted to certain lengths.

But the most amazing options for tails are ones I can't conceive of. It would be up to the creative business innovators of the world to properly utilize this new part of human anatomy. Can you think of a good product to market to tail enthusiasts?

My final argument for tails is that they would let people read much more frequently. Reading while walking is difficult, but with a long enough tail you could hold the book or e-reader in an arc over your head and keep both hands free. Tails would also make reading in bed much more comfortable (and easier to do without your parents knowing). On a subway or bus, reading with your tail would give other people a chance to see all your hip tail accessories. The human tail would cause a spike in literacy rates across the board.

It's hard to believe, but some people think that tails would actually be detrimental to society. Their main argument is that a tail would make society fatter and contribute to obesity, allowing people to do fifty percent more while sitting down. However, having one might be so fun that it would encourage more people to exercise! And the children of the world would have exponentially more joy on the "monkey" bars. I'm confident that tails would make people healthier overall.

The good news is we may be closer to having tails than one might think. The human embryo actually develops a tail one-sixth the size of its body that gets absorbed as the embryo develops. Sometimes it doesn't quite disappear, and a person is

born with a vestigial tail. The longest on record measured nine inches. Perhaps in the future these embryotic tails will evolve into the type that I imagine.

In so many ways, the human race has lost the ability to dream. But there's no reason to give up hope. There are a lot of "tall tails" out there, but this idea isn't one of them. If and when we do manage to grow tails, we'll certainly see the world change for the better. I, for one, am ready. Now, go get me my tail!

*Ned Vizzini* is the author of *The Other Normals*, *It's Kind of a Funny Story*, *Be More Chill*, and *Teen Angst? Naah...*. He has written for the *New York Times*, *The Daily Beast*, and season 2 of MTV's *Teen Wolf*. His work has been translated into seven languages. He is the co-author, with Chris Columbus, of the forthcoming fantasy-adventure series *House of Secrets*. Ned lives in Los Angeles with his wife and son.