



The Murder of Adam and Eve

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In this fast-paced and thought-provoking thriller, two teens time-travel to prehistoric Africa to judge whether to save our ancestors: the genetic "Adam" and "Eve" whose descendants will go on to populate the world. When 16-year-old Nick Brynner explores an old fort on a forbidden island for a school history project, he stumbles onto a time wormhole. What follows is a mysteriously deserted village with a prowling sentry that looks like a gargoyle, and narrow escape with the help of fellow teen Eleanor Terrell. The two are hurtled into a grim series of challenges by an alien race called the Xu, which are considering a Reset of human history because of our poor planetary stewardship. If Adam and Eve are murdered, will another couple, or another species, do better? Nick and Ellie are ruthlessly deposited onto the African savanna of fifty thousand years ago, and the hunt is on. *The Murder of Adam and Eve* is a coming of age story, a love story, a war story, and an environmental fable with a deliberately provocative ending, inspired by such books as "Walkabout," "Ishmael," "Lord of the Flies," and the author's own "Getting Back."

The Murder of Adam and Eve Details

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Author : William Dietrich

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From Reader Review *The Murder of Adam and Eve* for online ebook

AmandaEmma says

I received a digital copy from the publisher through Netgalley in exchange for an honest review

The narrator in *The Murder of Adam and Eve* is Nick Brynner. His dad died of cancer when he was ten so he only has his mom. Nick is 16 years old but because of his father's death he had to grow up faster.

Nick Brynner's substitute teacher, Mr. Faunus, persuades him to go on the forbidden island; Goat Island for his History Day scholarship and weird things happen. He explores the building, or fort, on the island and deep in the basement something happens. He is now a player in a game, he and a girl named Ellie has travel back in time to Africa and find Adam and Eve. Either the alien or Xu who created this game kills Adam and Eve to kill the entire human race or Nick and Ellie find them and protect them.

I knew it was going to be about time travel and something about killing Adam and Eve – I mean, look at the title! I had not expected that the Xu is the overseers of Judgment, they basically supervise the entire universe and they are trying to figure out whether or not to kill the entire human race and have therefore created this game. It's pretty far out there and even though I liked the beginning I still can't get over the fact that there's aliens out there who rules the entire universe.

I loved the beginning! I read the first couple of chapters pretty quickly and I didn't, or couldn't, put it down. It was so captivating and I found it so interesting! Then the alien thing happened and things definitely went downhill from there. I liked the setting a whole lot! It was so peaceful yet frightening, I love that no technology is in the book and the fact that they're actually in Africa so long ago. I loved reading about how Africa looked then and all the animals, it's so refreshing and it's probably my favourite thing about the whole book.

As far as characters go I liked Ellie and Nick, for teenagers they're quite wise and I definitely have some great quotes in my book after *The Murder of Adam and Eve*. I liked that romance is basically non existent and I liked seeing the two of them becoming friends. Other than that they're alright, they have survival skills which is quite needed in this book and I liked not hearing any of the whine throughout the entire book. They're refreshing characters, but for me they're alright.

It's quite an enjoyable read, especially if you can get over the alien fact – which I really couldn't – and it's definitely a refreshing story. 3/5.

Kayleigh says

Visit my blog <http://kayleighreadsbooks.blogspot.co...> to read this review!

Firstly I would like to thank Burrows Publishing and NetGalley for the opportunity to read this amazing book.

When first reading about this book I was sceptical about how good it was going to be due to never reading a book quite like this. But boy was I wrong. I fell in love with this book from the very beginning.

The main talent of William Dietrich's writing was how thought provoking it was. Throughout the book it was making me question myself and everything I have learnt about the world and history. It made me question how we could get from the stage of prehistoric Africa, being beautifully described by Dietrich in this book, of basically freedom to the modern world today. It really made me think about all the implications and problems Man have done to the world: pollution, wars, conflicts, crime. It made me realise how many of our actions as a human race have impacted dramatically on the planet we live on today. This was brilliantly done by Dietrich because not only did he get me thinking, he was showing this struggle that Nick had himself, thinking all of these big questions about the nature of our planet and whether it would be better to start everything again or carry on how we are. This is the first ever book that has made me think in such a way.

The storyline was pure genius and this is why I love this book so much as this is such a unique idea to many other books I have read in the same genre. I like how Dietrich constructed the Adam and Eve characters in a more historic and scientific way rather than the biblical side of them. This story also helped me in understanding more about science and how humanity was started as it made me consider the scientific aspect of Adam and Eve with the explanation of individuals today DNA being traced back to two individuals in the prehistoric times. Dietrich's writing is so impressive in how he can get his reader to consider different sides of theories and make us want to know more about where we have actually come from. But also I like the inclusion of the alien race, the Xu, as it brings more of an intense feel to the text as constantly I was thinking about them and what they were going to do to Nick and Ellie, Adam and Eve and the whole population of the human race.

All I have left to say is thank you William Dietrich for bringing prehistoric Africa and the individuals of this time to life.

Briana Alzola says

Try as I might, I just do not like science fiction and fantasy. This book was interesting, the action good and the characters compelling, but I lose interest when there are aliens and monsters. Personal preference aside, I still recommend this book. I love reading the scenes that take place where I live.

Ian Wood says

This is the complete review as it appears at my blog dedicated to reading, writing (no 'rithmetic!), movies, & TV. Blog reviews often contain links which are not reproduced here, nor will updates or modifications to the blog review be replicated here. Graphic and children's reviews on the blog typically feature two or three images from the book's interior, which are not reproduced here.

Note that I don't really do stars. To me a book is either worth reading or it isn't. I can't rate it three-fifths worth reading! The only reason I've relented and started putting stars up there is to credit the good ones, which were being unfairly uncredited. So, all you'll ever see from me is a five-star or a one-star (since no stars isn't a rating, unfortunately).

I rated this book WARTY!

WARNING! MAY CONTAIN UNHIDDEN SPOILERS! PROCEED AT YOUR OWN RISK!

This rather juvenile novel begins with the narrator (yes, unfortunately it's yet another first person YA novel, because YA writers, particularly those in the US for reasons unknown, cannot at all handle third person) kayaking across a strait off the US north-west coast to an island where there's an old abandoned fort. The island is supposedly off limits - rendered that way by the US military because the old gun emplacements are unsafe.

Our narrator is writing a paper for high school, on old forts, and this is his excuse to sneak onto the island ? early ? one ? morning ? just as ? the sun? was rising... under cover of fog. As he does so, he info-dumps on his life, which is so tragic its boring. He's your standard trope YA under-privileged kid with few friends and little popularity who is no doubt about to become a superhero.

One of his reminiscences concerns Andrea Martinez, and she's described as "...glossy hair, astonishing female architecture, teen queen smile, and 3.9 smarts..." I guess we should be thrilled that smarts even makes this list, but frankly it isn't much of a thrill. It's within the hands of writers to change these tropes and clichés. I can only ask once more why writers persist in their blanket refusal to do this. This isn't the only time, either, that I encountered this kind of thing in this particular novel. And yes, I know that teen thoughts often stray to such things. That doesn't mean that we have to go along with it and promote those thoughts. A main character in a novel should have something special about them - otherwise why do I want to read about them?

Nick goes inside the gun emplacement (it has bunkers underneath, and areas for munitions storage). He explores all of it, taking notes and photographs, and finally he discovers a metal plate on the floor, which eventually leads him to an area where he gets sucked horizontally along a tunnel, and loses consciousness. When he recovers, he's out in the open air, still on the island, and the fog is lifting. He shows absolutely no curiosity whatsoever about how this happened. He never returns to the bunker, not even to try and retrieve his phone and backpack. Instead, he goes back to the kayak and leaves the island!

This was completely unrealistic to me. It makes the main character look like an airhead at best, and a coward at worst. It's simply not conceivable that he wouldn't be the slightest bit curious, or that he wouldn't want to recover his stuff. But the story moves on, and starts moving quickly after that.

When Nick gets back to land, the village is deserted except for wild animals wandering around fearlessly. Suddenly, some creature - apelike, but more mean and aggressive - shows interest in him. Right at that point, a girl calls him by name and they escape the pursuit of this brutal creature on a motor launch. This girl doesn't even get the kind of description that Andrea did. She's simply, "A pretty girl...spiffy as a model...." Again, she's really of no interest except for her looks. This both saddened and irritated me.

Ellie - the girl, quickly transports Nick back to the Island he just left, where he meets an alien who quickly tells him that Earth is off track and he and Eleanor have been selected to get it back on the rails, otherwise it will have to be destroyed. They have to go back in time to do this. In short, it's bog-standard, boilerplate 1950's sci-fi!

In order to save Earth, we're told that E&N have to go backwards: they can't go to the future because it hasn't happened yet. This, of course, immediately makes a complete mockery of the time-travel claim the alien just made: that time loops and winds like a snarled fishing line - that it's like the board game Chutes and Ladders (in Britain that would be Snakes and Ladders). In short, it's nonsensical even within its own framework.

The plan is to send Ellie & Nick back to save the original Adam and Eve, and effectively reboot humanity. How this is supposed to work given that Ellie and Nick cannot possibly influence what happens over the

fifty-thousand years of subsequent evolution and societal development, is yet another unexplained mystery in a novel that's evidently replete with them.

It's at this point that the author really screws up. He seems to be laboring under the creationist delusion that because scientists have 'identified' (but not really!) a genetic Adam and a similar Eve, that these two were the only two humans alive on the planet, and that they both lived at the same time and in the same place, about 50,000 years ago. This is patent nonsense. What's known as Y-chromosomal 'Adam' is estimated to have lived somewhere between ~140,000 and ~340,000 years ago. He was not the only person alive then. Neither is he the only person to leave descendants. Nor was he created ex nihilo - he had parents.

Mitochondrial 'Eve' is the female version of this 'Adam', traced through her mitochondrial DNA ('Adam' is traced via the 'Y' chromosome). Again, she was not the only woman alive back then, nor is she the only woman to leave descendants, and she also had parents, so this idea that there were the first two people, and all living people are descended from them is sheer nonsense. 'Eve' lived somewhere between 99,000 and 200,000 years ago, but the chances that both were alive at the same time are slim indeed, and the chances that they ever met are infinitesimally small.

This information is also subject to change dependent upon new genetic data being uncovered, as indeed happened in 2013 when a man was discovered who had a Y chromosome bearing genetic information which had not been mapped before. This alone would appear to push back the time of 'Adam' to long before the time of 'Eve'

Ellie & Nick next have to pass some tests, the nature of which is borrowed from the movie Cube wherein people find themselves in a cube with doors on all six walls, and have to figure out how to travel through from one cube to its neighbor without dying from booby traps.

The rooms here are much simpler, but nonetheless as frustrating and dangerous. The first requires strength, the second agility, and the third an intimate knowledge of the counter-intuitive so-called Monty Hall problem. None of this makes sense. Since the aliens have already chosen Ellie and Nick, why put them through this testing? What purpose does it serve? None that I could see.

Eventually the two of them wind up on the African savanna fifty thousand years ago, to carry out their mission to look for Adam and Eve and - if they think they're worth saving - hide them so that the Xu cannot come kill them. What?!! None of this makes any sense. I'd originally thought that the two were supposed to replace the originals, and I had all kinds of arguments about how ridiculous, dumb, and untenable that was, but this scheme makes even less sense!

These two are simply teenagers. They're untrained and unarmed, and not remotely dangerous, and they're supposed to not only survive out here, but also to find two humans in thousands, and speak their language, and DNA test them, and persuade these two Africans to come with these strange white folks and hide?! And what purpose will this serve? How will this improve the "human stock"?

But it's actually worse than this. The Xu are hunting Adam and Eve and will kill them if Ellie and Nick fail to find them and hide them. How is this any test of Adam and Eve? It isn't. It's nothing but a contest between the two modern teenagers, and the expert assassin aliens. In short, it's no contest at all, and even if E&N were to win, it would prove only that they got lucky or that they somehow managed to outsmart the aliens (which actually probably isn't that hard if the aliens are this stupid to begin with!).

It would say nothing about A&E, nor would it change history. It's completely absurd. The only way it could

even hope to change anything is if the title proved out, and the original A&E were slain, leaving E&N to replace them, but even given this, it would have no effect, overall, on the next fifty thousand years of history. There would be no guarantee that the new A&E would eventually turn out to be the ones who pass their lineage down to modern times.

Ellie claims she received an education from the aliens prior to Nick's arrival, but she goes right on to prove that either this is a complete lie, or she's the worst student ever, neither of which options speaks very highly of her. She also claims she's a biology nerd who likes animals, (let's not get into the distinction between biology and zoology), but she doesn't grasp that it's a saber-tooth cat, not a saber-tooth tiger. Nor does she think for a second to warn Nick about crocodiles and other predators when they find a small creek to drink from - a creek that was so small that it was highly unlikely there would even be crocs and hippos there, but let's let that one slide right on by, shall we?

Neither of them think of heading upstream - away from the animals so they can a) avoid predators, and b) avoid the dirty water caused by the animals romping around, muddying the water, and urinating and defecating all over the place. Nick is just as bad. Right after they pass a skeleton - I mean immediately after - which sports bones of all shapes, sizes, and weights, just sitting there for the taking, they both agree that they need to find something to use as a weapon...! I was ready to ditch this after the incident at the creek, but I couldn't because I was really interested in finding out how hilarious their first interaction with other humans would turn out. I wasn't disappointed.

Having found a creek, instead of following it in the likelihood that they'd run into more humans, they leave it and head for the mountains. They don't seem to grasp that the creek must have inevitably sprung up from the mountains. These people are bone-headed and brain-dead stupid. When Nick is bitten by a snake, one of the locals finally shows up and saves his life. Ellie promptly names the black kid "Boy". Seriously? Could we be any more "southern states" if we tried?

When they meet the tribe, one of the males takes an interest in Ellie, and so Nick turns into a caveman and beats his face to a pulp - this is the guy who has been sent to rescue humanity from its violent future. What a total ass-hat. Yeah, start brawling over this girl because you're macho man lord and master, and she's jus' a po' weak lil thang who cain't perreck hersel'. It was at this point that I said "No more" and ditched this completely whack novel so I could move onto something better.

August says

****This review comes from my website,**

Books I Should Have Read A Long Time Ago and you can read more of my reviews there. **

YA literature is such an interesting area of books, because I think the struggle to create something thought-provoking and worthwhile, while also being relatable and engaging for younger readers, can create some really powerful writing. Some of my favorite books and authors firmly inhabit YA fiction land. (Is that a real land? It should be...) Although on the other side of the spectrum, sometimes YA can be solidly awful and get away with it because ...? I'm not sure really, but I have yet to understand the phenomenon that was Twilight.

Luckily, we don't have to talk about the dark and glittering underbelly of YA literature, because today's book is actually really quite good! The Murder of Adam and Eve by William Dietrich was a pleasant surprise

for me after spending October reviewing a string of YA novels that ranged from the cringeworthy to the merely annoyingly flawed.

The premise of this book goes basically: “What if a race of advanced aliens decided that, to wipe out the polluting, violent, screwed-up humans slowly destroying the planet, they went back in time and assassinated humanity’s genetic ancestors so that we never evolved?”

First check for environmentalism, because Dietrich gets in there and explores the idea that maybe the planet is pretty important after all, and people aren’t treating it so well. And that’s a serious, actual, real problem that somehow people are still ignoring. But he avoided sounding preachy with his message, which is where this other YA novel failed, because getting all up in your reader’s grill is a good way to lose said reader regardless of whether they agree with you or not.

Instead, Dietrich explored this great idea called ‘having fun with your writing’ and created a book that is part nature-survival romp, part sci-fi, and all entertaining. The sixteen year-old protagonist stumbles his way through some pretty crazy happenings, (trying to avoid spoilers here, because I’m going to recommend this book to you, so don’t judge me) only to come out of it all as a stronger, better person.

Update: this book has received criticism for not only being scientifically inaccurate, but for also featuring a bland white male character as the relatively dense protagonist and is therefore not a diverse book or a very creative one. While I can see the merit in these criticisms, I still enjoyed the plot. I don’t think all non-diverse books have to be criticized simply for existing. So. And scientifically speaking, I’m pretty sure this book wasn’t meant to be a textbook.

Leading on from this, let’s talk about said white male protagonist. one of the problems I frequently find with (especially self-published YA literature) is that the adult writers probably haven’t been teens themselves in a long time, and it’s not easy to write them: there’s always the danger of either creating an empty shell of stereotypes – she struggles with acne! and hates her parents! and wants to be the most popular person in school and be asked to the prom or she will literally die! and that is all she is as a character! Or else swerving in the opposite direction, and creating a little adult-type person who has it all figured out.

But teens are neither of these things, thank goodness. From my own fuzzy memories of those dark days, I remember being a teenager much like trying to survive in the wild, in a place you know nothing about. You know you have the tools to survive, but you’re not quite sure how to use them yet – you’re smart, but you don’t have a lot of practice with it. The future is an unknown quantity, which is frightening. Everything is still new, because now there are all these big decisions to be made, where before they were made for you. It’s a turbulent time, man, and now I’m having high school flashbacks and let’s move on.

Dietrich, I think, does a reasonable job of portraying his protagonist, Nick, as all of these things, as a real person. My only criticism in this regard is the typical teen love-story element, which presented from Nick’s point of view comes across as kind of cheesy, and really lets him down as a character. Dietrich passed on the opportunity to create a well-rounded character who was also not weird about girls... but then I was never a teenage boy (thank fuck) so perhaps that’s really how they think. *Shudders*

The Murder of Adam and Eve overall gets a high recommendation from me, and you should definitely buy it for the teen in your life, or perhaps for yourself. If you like sci-fi, explorations of alternate time streams, survival romps, or well-written engaging books in general, get it! While the book is self-published, don’t let that put you off: William Dietrich is a Pulitzer award-winning journalist and writer of adult novels who, according to his own website, decided to self-publish this, his first YA novel, because publishers didn’t like

T.M. B.A. Corbett says

Please visit my blog for more on this book and others!

Here is the thing when I downloaded this book to read it was based off of the title and the fact that the front cover said the author was a New York Times bestseller. I didn't actually read the synopsis to see what the book was about but right before I read the book I did and thought what the hell I will read it even though this book is mainly going to be about getting us to think about the way we are living today and the consequences. I started reading and was immediately disappointed by the main character Nick (stereotypical dump YA Boy) and the information dump of his boring life.

After the initial information dump from the narrator (why oh why write a boring stupid boy as the narrator) Nick the story picks up. It is really faced paced and has lots of twist and turns.

However it does not make any sense!

Nick goes to island he is not suppose to, he falls in hole inside hut, he wakes up and leaves island. HE IS NOT CURIOUS ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS TO HIM AND HE DOES NOT NEED HIS BAG AND OTHER ITEMS HE LEFT BEHIND. These kinds of inconsistency annoy me in a book. The nonsense only continues. On his way back from the island everyone is gone but a girl who calls him by his name but it is not clear that he actually knew her or knew of her.

SPOILERS AHEAD!

So lets move ahead a little to the aliens who tell Nick and Ellie (the random girl) that they chose them to go back in time to Adam and Eve and decided if they want to save man kind by hiding Adam and Eve from the aliens who will kill them or just let them die. THIS MAKES NO SENSE! Why would the aliens leave the decision to two teenagers and how could these teens even stop the aliens from killing Adam and Eve in the first place. The aliens can make everyone disappear and send these two teens back in time but they can't find the two teens hiding Adam and Eve! WTF! It only gets worse the aliens choose Nick and Ellie to go back in time but they first have to get tested in these cubes to see if they are able too Wait WHAT! ALIENS, You chose them, shouldn't you already know if they are able too go back and save or not save Adam and Eve? One of the biggest rules of writing fiction is to create complete rules of that world and to stick with the rules you create in that world. For example: if a vampire bites a werewolf the vampire is poisend and dies, so if any vampire bite a werewolf it must die. So if the aliens can time travel and send people through time why do the teens have to go back why can't they go forward to fix the issue that earth will encounter. Well the author did not have a valid reason why they couldn't go forward in time. Hence the need to think out your worlds' rules and stick with them!

The characters are all stereotypes and really stupid even Ellie who loves animals which is why she studies biology yeah she doesn't want to study zoology specifically even though it is animals she loves! I mean the aliens choose Nick cause he is suppose to be the average male who should be able to understand the major issues affecting earth but no when he gets back in time he beats up another boy for talking with Ellie.....

Yeah I can not go on with the issues I have with this book.

Magdalena aka A Bookaholic Swede says

I don't know about you, but I've been seduced by a nice cover and a cool title a couple of times in my life. Alright, it happens quite often...

The Murder of Adam and Eve is a book that I should have thought twice about before I decided to download it from NetGalley. Mostly because I usually try to stay away from YA, especially if it is a love story. But then again the blurb on NetGalley don't give away that much of the story and I think that I was blinded by the interesting cover to really care that it's all about two teenagers that must save the earth.

Apparently an alien raise called Xu has decided that Nick Brynner and Eleanor Terrell is the ones that have to decide if the human race is worth saving, and they have to go back in time to Africa and save the original Adam and Eve. Not the Bible Adam and Eve, but out genetic forebears. So Nick and Ellie have to adjust to the prehistoric life and also decide if the human race is worth saving or if the planet is better off without the humans.

I won't lie, I had a damn hard time getting into the story, but I felt that the book was way too short for me to quit. There was just something about the storyline that just didn't work for me, two people had to go back to the past to decide if the humans were worth saving? The explanation to why the alien race just didn't decide for us comes at the end of the book and sound quite reasonable in a way (they must have a logical reason for not doing everything by themselves you know), even though I found it a mostly ludicrous. I mean there was some test in the beginning of the book they had to go through before they got sent back in the past, why? Why just not sent them back? No, let's make them go through some teamwork exercises first.

Of course Nick falls in love with Ellie, it's a love story, no matter that the human race has to be saved, there is time for some romance on the savanna.

So why the two-star rating? I was quite sure it would not be as good to earn more than one star, but the ending was better than I expected, and also more surprising than I expected. I still find the idea of a chosen person or two saving the whole world by going back in time quite ludicrous. And, I'm amazed that they actually survived out there before they found "Adam and Eve".

But still I can see that it would appeal to younger people that likes reading about teenagers saving the world. Personally? I will think twice the next time I see a book with a nice looking cover!

I want to thank the publisher and NetGalley for providing me with a free copy for an honest review!

A Reader's Heaven says

(I received a free copy of this book from Net Galley in exchange for an honest review.)

A time travel thriller to prehistoric Africa in which two teens must judge the fate of humanity by saving, or betraying, the ancestors of our species: the genetic "Adam" and "Eve."

A forbidden island. An abandoned fort. A deserted village. A living gargoyle. And a time wormhole that catapults teen Nick Brynner and his companion Eleanor Terrell to prehistoric Africa to pass judgment on mankind.

They must find and protect – or condemn – our genetic forebears, a real-life “Adam” and “Eve” to either preserve or reset the future. Nick must choose between wilderness, civilization, love, and humanity.

I am not going to run off a list of reasons why I didn't like this book. That wouldn't be fair. But what I will say is this: books that are aimed at the YA market need diversity and to avoid the boy/girl love angle when it can. It is just so predictable nowadays and this book fell right into those problems. Added to that, the environmental stuff came across as preachy...and that isn't really necessary either.

The story had promise and potential but it got weighed down with cliches and tropes.

Paul
ARH

Sharona Lin says

First reviewed on Pop Culture-y.

16-year-old, small-town American schoolboy Nick Brynner is your typical “boy” character. He’s not particularly popular, he’s not particularly athletic and he’s got a crush on some girl who is “unobtainable as car, college, Xbox, or popularity”.

You can tell that I’m not particularly interested in this type of protagonist, because I’ve read about a million of them. It’s not Dietrich’s fault – it’s unlikely that he knows what kind of protagonists I’m bored of – but the book market is full of books about straight white guys and frankly, it’s getting a little old.

Still, I soldiered through *The Murder of Adam and Eve*, and was not completely disappointed.

One day, our typical-average-teenage-white-boy Nick decides to explore a mysterious island that is off limits to the general public, as part of a solo history project. He gets sucked up by aliens and ends up having to go back in time in Africa with a girl, Eleanor Terrell, to the dawn of the human race – the biological Adam and Eve that gave birth to the rest of the human race. The alien race, the Xu, want to kill Adam and Eve and “reset” the course of the Earth, while it’s up to Nick and Eleanor to stop them and prove the human race worthy. Along the way, there’s a lot of contemplation about humanity and environmentalism and innovation, as well as a great deal of survivalism and hunting.

The premise is certainly intriguing – clearly a lot of research went into the book’s depiction of pre-humanity Africa. There are some interesting philosophical points raised too. And it’s nice that Dietrich at least threw a girl into the equation so it wasn’t just some white kid wandering around Africa trying to hunt. But the problem with this book is the supremely annoying narrator, Nick.

He has lines like this: “She treated me like a brother. I could never forget she was a girl.” Cheers kid, it’s good to know that you consider girls to basically be a species unto themselves, and that there’s no way you can think of a girl as a friend, just as someone you want to bang.

And he has this weird preoccupation with calling her “girl”. Like, “You’re so serious, girl.” It’s like he’s a pick up artist in a bar hitting on some random chick in a bar, not talking to someone he’s travelled with for several weeks.

(This is all ignoring the point that the whole point of the Xu’s choosing Nick is that he’s the “average” of the human race – when if you want to get your head out of your America-centric ass, the “average” human is a Chinese man.)

There’s a point where you just have to say no to another book about some average, white, straight teenage boy who is pining after a girl. I’m not sure whether I should have said ‘no’ before or after this book. While the point of view was really grating and irritating to me, I have to admit that if you can get past it, or it doesn’t bother you, the book does present an intriguing philosophical conundrum with some great prose.

Peter says

I liked it. Another YA novel with plenty of action and the characters were for the most part worth finding out about. I enjoyed the settings at the beginning of the book in the Northwest.

-RadioactiveBookworm- says

Goodreads Synopsis: In this fast-paced and thought-provoking thriller, two teens time-travel to prehistoric Africa to judge whether to save our ancestors: the genetic "Adam" and "Eve" whose descendants will go on to populate the world. When 16-year-old Nick Brynner explores an old fort on a forbidden island for a school history project, he stumbles onto a time wormhole. What follows is a mysteriously deserted village with a prowling sentry that looks like a gargoyle, and narrow escape with the help of fellow teen Eleanor Terrell. The two are hurtled into a grim series of challenges by an alien race called the Xu, which are considering a Reset of human history because of our poor planetary stewardship. If Adam and Eve are murdered, will another couple, or another species, do better? Nick and Ellie are ruthlessly deposited onto the African savanna of fifty thousand years ago, and the hunt is on. The Murder of Adam and Eve is a coming of age story, a love story, a war story, and an environmental fable with a deliberately provocative ending, inspired by such books as "Walkabout," "Ishmael," "Lord of the Flies," and the author's own "Getting Back."

My Review: I have torn feelings about this book. I liked it at first, but the more I thought about it, the more I started doubting my feelings. It’s such an interesting topic, and there’s Aliens, Angels, Cavemen, creatures no one has even heard of, and even time travel. Who doesn’t like that? It’s an eclectic mix of adventure, action, romance, and mystery. Although those things wouldn’t usually fit together, this book was amazing. Everything just worked. So at the beginning of the book, Nick is on an adventure into an underground tunnel that’s been blocked off, and what does he find in there? Another world. Isn’t that crazy? So the book keeps going and he meets a few people, an angel named Gabe, and a girl name Ellie. Ellie turns out to be his partner in something bigger than all of them. Thus starts an epic adventure of time traveling back to pre human Africa, on a journey to save Adam and Eve before the aliens reset the planet by killing them off. I can honestly say that cavemen really could have acted the way they did in the book, and that’s just great. This book really is awesome, full of everything you could hope for. The characters might be average, but the story is not. I was hooked from the very beginning, and loved every minute I read this book. It’s like nothing I’ve read before, and I definitely recommend you check it out! You won’t regret it. I got my copy from netgalley

in exchange for a review. Thanks for reading!

(Radioactivebookreviews.wordpress.com)

Marjolein says

Full review to come!

Heidi Gonzalez says

I was iffy about this one when I started it but then I got caught up in the story. How would two teens survive in ancient Africa? They have to find food, water and stay alive, all while trying to track down Adam and Eve before the Xu do.

I found this book a bit blaze when it came to the teens having to trap and kill animals. I know they are hungry but I still think modern teens who aren't into hunting would have a hard time skinning a rabbit. But if you overlook some of these little things the story is interesting. What if you had the ability to change time? What if you could become the next Adam & Eve? Would helping to save the current Adam and Eve by any means effect their development. These are two modern teens with modern thinking can their ideas influence the future? The book doesn't really answer all of these questions but it poses them which makes you wonder can one person change the course that humanity has set? Makes you wonder.

I liked this book. Its simple but gives you things to ponder long after you close the cover.

Heathery says

I received a copy of this via NetGalley for review.

I was drawn to this book by the lovely cover art and intriguing book title. Although, I will say that it really doesn't sync with the typical YA cover art--not necessarily a bad thing, just an observation.

For the religious and atheistic folks who are afraid to try this book for fear that it might be too anti-religious or pro-religious, it really is neither of those things. Both religion and atheism are mentioned, but the author slyly skirts around getting too deep into either. So, all groups of people can enjoy this book without feeling squeamish about it.

I really enjoyed this book, but my one beef for about 75% of the book was that Africa is big. Like, really freaking big. Yet, somehow, Nick and Ellie managed to head in the right direction and find who they were looking for in like two weeks.

Like, really? However, it IS explained later on in the book, at around the 90% mark. (view spoiler) The

explanation makes it much easier to swallow, but because of how long it takes to LEARN the explanation, I feel like many readers would have assigned it to the "gaping plothole" category and gave up on the book already.

The other aspect that I wish had come about a bit differently was how Ellie ended up on the ship. (view spoiler) Why did Nick find the entry on his own, yet Ellie had to be kidnapped?

I liked the writing style, and found the book to be quite funny at times, so that kept me reading. I can't say I really cared for Nick or Ellie most of the time. I really liked Boy and some of the other Homo sapiens. The way they were written was humorous and endearing. You learn as you go along that Nick and Ellie are both good people and honestly pretty terrible--which, I suspect, was one of the major points the author was trying to get across. Humans are capable of good, but we're also capable of darkness, too. It got a tad bit preachy at times, but the author usually stopped just short of getting on my nerves.

This book DOES "make you think." Usually, I don't like books like that; I read for entertainment and stress relief--I don't WANT to have to think. However, the author manages to do it in a way that is still entertaining and fun to read. Also, he has quite the gift for describing the beauty and wonder of pre-historic Africa.

Overall, I recommend this book, BUT you have to stick with it to the end to fully appreciate it because that's when the plotholes are neatly tied up. It's only like 300 pages long, so it's really not that hard to stick with it.

Mark Gardner says

This book was engaging, and I had to carve out extra reading time in my regular routine so I could finish it ahead of schedule. I had a little concern, because some reviewers painted a picture of this book being some sort of "Environmentalism Agenda." I found this laughable; it wasn't an agenda, but a plot point, and a novel one at that.

I could possibly read into the overarching themes of totalitarianism of the Xu, but instead I simply read an entertaining page-turner. I read a considerable amount of words every week and write as well, so not many story twists work. The twist at the end of this story was both unanticipated and welcome. I love it when an author can trick me.

The story flowed smoothly, and I can only recall a single line in the story that I had to reread because it was unclear. The characters were very believable and I enjoyed this story immensely. I highly recommend this story to not only sci-fi and fantasy readers, but also those interested in the potential origins of religion. While this isn't a story specifically focused on religion, I see themes that relate to my own studies of religion and psychology.

Five out of five stars is my rating, and I've been telling anyone who'll listen to me to read it.
