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Central FL Sci-Fi Author Encourages Body Acceptance in New Novel

Orlando, FL, August 6, 2024 – Can a science fiction novel teach people how to accept and appreciate the diversity and splendor of the human body? Fiction author Dan Whicker thinks so. His novel *Planet of Eden* was released on May 7, and the sci-fi newcomer is hoping it will shake up his favorite genre and inspire other writers to put the “speculative” back into speculative fiction.

If space travel and alien encounters are not necessarily your thing, don't let the science fiction label dissuade you. Whicker knows how to put just enough sci-fi in without losing readers, and the challenging and encouraging themes in this book will make you forget which planet you are on anyway.

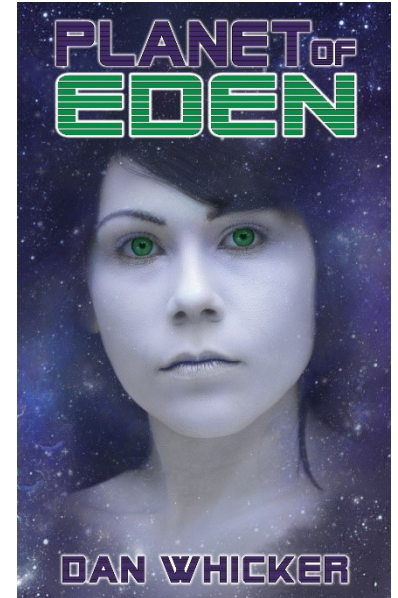
“There really is something there for everyone,” the author points out. “It’s a story of discovery, adventure, trust, new friendships, reclaiming what was lost, and even newfound love. As for the science fiction feel, I liken it to the *Avatar* movies and *The X-Files* show. If you watched those and enjoyed them, you will like reading *Planet of Eden*.”

Whicker likes to tackle the deeper issues of life in his writing. One theme in *Eden* that will challenge readers is body acceptance. Much of the story takes place on an Eden-like planet where the inhabitants have little need for coverings.

“This is not *Naked and Afraid*; it’s ‘afraid of the naked,’” the author quips. “What if you and five strangers were accidentally taken to a utopian planet with a civilization of Adams and Eves? Would their flawless, naked bodies shock you or shame you? What does a perfect human body even look like? We really have no concept of that in our world. All we can do is compare our imperfect selves with another imperfect person, and that leads to all sorts of condemnation, self-loathing, and injustice. The heroes in the story, though, must face what they are in light of near perfection, and accept what they are over what they could have been. Which one is more difficult?”

Whicker takes the concepts of body acceptance and body positivity seriously, never straying from the higher moral ground. “This story will not titillate,” he cautions. “It explores how people relate to their bodies when confronted with what they think are imperfections.”

Something else that makes *Planet of Eden* different: its messages are positive and permeated with hope. With current sci-fi and fantasy novels heavily based on dystopic societies and dark themes, Whicker’s departure from the norm is a breath of fresh air.



“This novel portrays many contrasts; one of those is utopia versus dystopia,” he notes. “You’ll see a seemingly near-perfect society that—at first hard to accept—will awaken a part of you that craves what humans had in the real Eden.”

Whicker points out that most science fiction presupposes naturalistic evolution and humanism as explanations for the origin of life and for its meaning. In contrast, his new book turns typical sci-fi on its head when the main characters discover intelligent, extraterrestrial beings with a religion that is strikingly familiar to something back home.

“I got tired of reading books and watching movies that treated evolution as fact instead of theory.” So, the professional-marketer-turned-author decided to write his own story. “I asked myself: what if there really were advanced beings living on other planets? But what if those people believed in God like many of us? Instead of life evolving on other planets, what if it was created there, too?”



Dan Whicker, Author

Planet of Eden is the story of a covert alien mission to Earth that turns into an accidental abduction. According to the author’s website: “When the mission goes awry and six Earth people are accidentally and very publicly captured..., two planets inhabited by contradictory people are suddenly thrown into chaos as each contends with the existence of its opposite.”

Taking us on the ride to Eden are a twenty-two-year-old loner named Jay; a young, traditional married couple enroute to a weekend getaway; a university professor dedicated to atheism, a feisty medical student, and a government official with suspicious intentions. Each one must “learn to trust each other and their alien hosts when they are reluctantly taken to the utopian planet of Hourou. There, amidst an

archetypal paradise, they experience living among a near perfect race of humans who seem to have remained isolated from all evils...or have they?”

Back on Earth, “Laura Turgis is tasked with investigating the world’s first bona fide alien abduction while society unravels around her. Learning the truth about extraterrestrial life gives rise to fear and distrust across the planet. Amidst increasing global volatility, how will humanity react to Laura’s discovery that the aliens are coming back again...to retrieve one of their own who was left behind?”

Just like his story, Whicker’s writing style dares to be different. In his words: “I want the *characters* to tell the story. That’s what makes my writing so distinct. I want the reader to be absorbed into the story, vicariously exploring and unraveling mysteries as if being right there in the middle of the action.”

Planet of Eden is available to purchase through [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com) and booksellers everywhere. For more information, visit danwhicker.com.

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Dan Whicker believes that the best stories leave you feeling hope, no matter what galaxy they take place in. Drawing from his degrees in marketing and theology, as well as over 27 years working as a professional communicator, Dan has developed a writing style that leads the reader to experience a story primarily through the dialogue of its characters. Though he loves fiction, Dan also enjoys subjects as diverse as modern culture, metaphysics, philosophy, religion, biology, business, leadership, and relationships. He has written many articles for various periodicals and online channels. When Dan is not behind a computer, he is honing his singing voice and teaching himself to play the guitar. Often, you can find him beachcombing in Florida where he lives with his two sons. Connect at danwhicker.com.