

'Universe Story trilogy is beautiful—just what we need'

Dawn Publications, Nevada City, Calif., <www.dawnpub.com>

ANY YOUNG KIDS IN YOUR LIFE? I have just read three gorgeous books on our cosmic origins that will appeal to most kids from ages 5 (with help) to 10 or so.

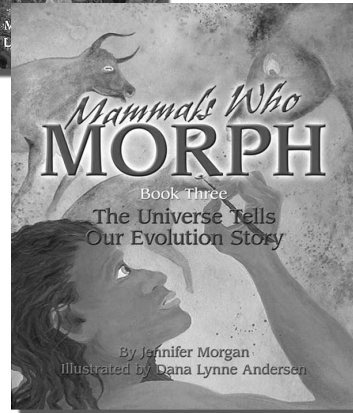
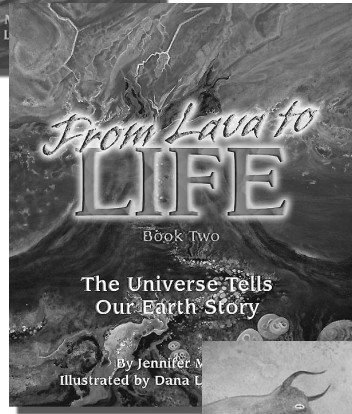
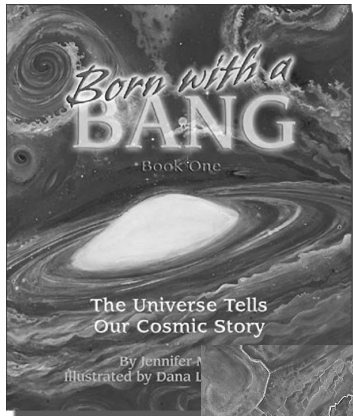
Jennifer Morgan has written, and Dana Lynne Anderson has illustrated:

❖ ***Born with a Bang: The Universe Tells our Cosmic Story* (2002)**

❖ ***From Lava to Life: The Universe Tells our Earth Story* (2003)**

❖ ***Mammals Who Morph: The Universe tells our Evolution Story* (2006)**

They are beautiful. They are entrancing. They are scientifically accurate. They are just what we need.



For some years I have heard of “The New Story,” in which we are part of Earth, not just living “on” it, and have understood it well, but I have never imagined how it could be told in a spell-binding way. I realize that the human mind is hard-wired for the narrative mode, and children especially are captured by and learn from stories. Scholars studying narrative thinking have come up with essential ingredients, and one of them is characters with whom to identify. How could there be characters in a “New Story” that could draw you in with a fascination like that of Bible stories, or Tolkien’s *Lord of the Rings*. There’s no Harry Potter in a 13-billion-year-old swirling mass of energy that isn’t yet even matter.

Well, guess what! These books have a narrative and a teller. The teller is the Universe itself, and s/he addresses an audience called “*My Dearest Earthling*,” which feels just like being addressed as “*O Best Beloved*.”

Jennifer Morgan came to my Meeting to give an adult presentation called “Waking Up from the Dream of Separateness.” It was absolutely wonderful. To finish, she assumed the character of the Universe (which previously had no gender in my mind but now seems feminine although I know better)

and told her story. I found out later that the marvelous slides she was using are illustrations from her books.

I will say only two things more. First, although I hope you will all buy from your local independent bookstore rather than from a corporate entity whose name begins with “A,” you can read more detailed but equally glowing reviews on Amazon.com

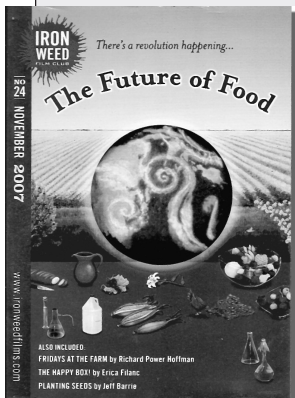
And second, as I read the books on the bus on my way home several fellow passengers admired them, and two asked eagerly where they could get them. Christmas presents were mentioned!

Do yourself and the kids in your life a favor and consider these books.

—Mary Gilbert

Friends Meeting at Cambridge (Mass.)

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THE FUTURE OF FOOD, 88 min. Deborah Koons Garcia, Iron Weed Film Club, 2004.

Powerful multinational corporations seek to control the world’s agricultural systems, transforming the fundamental nature of food, our bodies, and ultimately the entire biological web of life. This hard-hitting film investigates the unlabeled, patented, genetically engineered crops that have slipped

into our food supply and onto our family tables.

Filmmaker Garcia reveals the health implications and environmental risks of genetically modified foods and examines the web of government policies, corporate power, and market forces that are changing what we eat. She gives eloquent voice to farmers who have been negatively impacted by this new technology and explores alternatives to industrial agriculture, proposing organic and sustainable farming as real solutions to the food crisis.

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