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The Perfect Mate for a 34th-Century Date

Author Finds Human Comedy in Absolute Genetic Control

HOLLYWOOD, Calif. – The floor-swabbing LhasaMopso and the enduringly entertaining TeeVee are only a few of the characters in Aurelio O’Brien’s lively and comic novel, *Eve* (now available through AuthorHouse), which illustrates the pitfalls of a genetically engineered consumer society.

Chief operating officer and sublime leader of the world Queen Maedla, runs GenieCorp, the sole global corporation, which eliminated birth, death and illness to transform the earth into a manmade Eden. It is a place where electro-mechanical technology has been replaced by living creations that meet mankind’s every need.

However, GenieCorp’s top gene splicer, Govil, in classic engineering-nerd tradition, desires a female companion. With the help of Pentser, an outlaw robot he rescued from a crypt of foam peanuts, Govil engineers and creates a deliberately-normal girl, Eve. She quickly takes to the world she was created for, and with a little help from Pentser, she sets out to make her place in it. Govil, of course, falls in love with his creation, even as she learns that in a world where average is perfect, being perfectly average is not what it is cracked up to be.

Her unapproved existence threatens the stability of GenieCorp, and an army of clones is mobilized to seek her out. There is another power at work as well, manipulating events from behind the scenes for its own secret purposes. Then there is Eve herself, who has something to say about her own fate.

Eve artfully combines the satire of Swift, the darker sciences of Shelley and the social comedy of Shaw to create a surprisingly fresh and contemporary work of fiction.

O’Brien’s novel, *Eve*, may be the culmination of 12 billion years of cosmic evolution, but O’Brien the novelist is more recently evolved. He resides in the foothills of southern California and has spent the past 20 years slaving in the galleys of the feature film and animation businesses. He also attended the California Institute of the Arts. *Eve* is his first novel. For a peek at O’Brien’s future, go to www.evethenovel.com.

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EVE
by
AURELIO O'BRIEN

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SUMMARY

The premise is simple: what if you created your perfect mate?

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The time is the fourth millennium. The storyteller is a robot, Pentser, a lone relic of times lost, a museum piece of electronic memorabilia, an automated antiquarian of long forgotten information and, in his own humble opinion, mankind's most perfect creation.

Pentser's user, a 600-year-old-but-doesn't-look-a-day-over-twenty man, Govil, is unhappy. Although he—and everyone else on Earth—lives in a luxurious, genetically designed paradise of eternal health and ceaseless pampering, Govil wants something more. He doesn't know what it is, but he wants it anyway.

Pentser finds this new world mankind has installed while he was packed in a foam-peanut limbo unacceptable and absurd. But what can he do? Operating machines are taboo and the best he can fare is an outlaw's existence within the confines of Govil's estate. There he is reduced to acting as Govil's diverting but sarcastic manservant while observing this new rather visceral age with a jaundiced lens.

Mankind provides plenty of grist for Pentser's critical mill. After it eliminated human death, mankind eliminated birth, as well as human coupling. Ecological balance is maintained with careful biological bookkeeping. And the books are kept in tidy order by one great, omniscient, omnipresent, omnipotent human institution, the Genie Corporation, or GenieCorp™.

GenieCorp™ is where Govil works. He's a Neer, stranding DNA to create the various biological entities that make life perfect in the fourth millennium: Mades® that attend their manses, DreamWeavers® that spin them fanciful garments and Foodstruders® which provide flavorful sustenance. There are even cute teddybear-like creatures called HuggiWugs® and ever-loving dog-like PuppiLuvs®, who bark "I love you," instead of "bow-wow."

Govil is an intelligent but nerdish Neer whose major vice is his seemingly unwarranted dissatisfaction with the

predictable side of paradise. His exasperated mother, Juune, advises him to, "Stop trying to be so clever all the time. Figure out what you want and hit The Mall." His best friend, Moord, suggests he try out a Beddinbuddy[®], Govil's latest bio-concoction, a self-contained, multi-functional sexual pleasure organism. "Nah, I don't like to take work home with me," is Govil's glib reply.

Govil's needs are relieved by neither a Beddinbuddy[®] nor by his illegally re-animated robot, Pentser. Through a random turn of events, however, Pentser hits on something that might fulfill Govil's hopes: the creation of a deliberately ordinary woman, a helpmeet, an "Eve."

This is a radical and even immoral concept in the fourth millennium. Human beings are no longer created, and all created life is recycled. To create Eve, Govil must break the law. "But, what harm could she do?" Govil reassures Pentser. "She won't be any more dangerous than I am."

Late one night, when everyone is at home, Govil and Pentser sneak into GenieCorp[™] and act. Eve is born, like a middlebrow Venus on the half-shell, the answer to Govil's prayers.

Govil isn't bored any more, and neither is Pentser. This newest creation of theirs is definitely unpredictable, to Govil's delight and Pentser's dismay. Eve, however, is not just another DNA strand Govil shaped any way he wished. She is a unique, living, thinking, feeling human being. She is naïve and ignorant of the world, but, with Pentser's help, she learns fast.

Govil's clandestine violation is detected, and GenieCorp[™]'s Intelligence Officers, three clones with oversized brains, pursue the case. They know somewhere out there a creature exists that unbalances the books, the perfect equilibrium of life and mankind's paradise on earth. This dangerous creature must be found and, quite literally, liquidated.

While the GenieCorp[™] IO's conduct an elaborate yet incompetent search for Eve, Eve discovers her new world and embraces it. But as her namesake did in paradise, she soon yearns for forbidden fruit. Or is it left for her to find, because somewhere in the garden there is a serpent?

In a carefully calculated world of perfect balance, Eve is the wildcard in everyone's hand. Her ultimate survival is a matter of both skill and random chance, and as in all such games, someone has to lose.

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Aurelio O'Brien

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Aurelio O'Brien was born in the middle of the 20th Century in San Diego; the second most perfect spot in the most perfect state of the United States, California. He was raised in the most perfect spot in California, Sunnyvale. His Irish-American family of five brothers and two sisters ranged wildly through the vast apricot and cherry orchards that are now called Silicon Valley. His aerospace-engineering trained father provided the kids with the tools and skills to build solar ovens, adobe clubhouses and hot air balloons. The kids provided the imagination to create plausible stories explaining to their parents and/or the police why they weren't responsible for the eighteen-birthday-candle powered hot air balloon made from a dry-cleaning bag that just happened to set a neighbor's roof on fire; that, in fact, they were heroes for extinguishing the potential inferno with a garden hose.

In any case, out of this Gaelic stew came Aurelio, born to family of storytellers, inventors, entrepreneurs and teachers.

Aurelio, however, chose a different path. He drew, he painted, he designed. By the time he was ready to leave the creative hothouse of home, he was accepted to The California Institute of the Arts, established by Walt Disney as school for all the arts: dance, painting, music, drama and film. Even in a school full of creative folk, Aurelio stood out. Before he could finish his curriculum, he was hired by a Hollywood film studio to work in the movies. Twenty years of production design, story development, script writing and other more glamorous entertainment work on award winning films followed.

Having spent a full career and two decades telling other people's stories, Aurelio decided to tell one of his own. "Eve" is his first novel. Another is in the works, as are a series of children's books and whatever else his fertile mind decides to dispense.

Mr. O'Brien, although raised in the most perfect spot on the planet, is always willing to try something new. After sojourns in Taipei, Taiwan and New York, New York, he currently resides in the foothills of Southern California, waiting patiently with his cat and his companion for "the big one," planning not only to survive, but to gain ocean front property.

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EVE is the first in what Mr. O'Brien plans will become a series of "what if" books. What will people act like if they crack the genetic code and can formulate life in whatever shape they choose? What will people do when aliens suddenly show up at the local Starbucks asking for a decaf frappachino? What if chickens *had* lips?

Of course, Mr. O'Brien's people are the same ones who use supercomputers to make cartoons, Hummers as commuter cars and think actors should lead governments; who are simultaneously clever and idiotic, charming and vulgar, childlike and childish.

Mr. O'Brien has great affection for his characters, and hopes readers will find Govil, Eve and Pentser interesting folk to be around, perhaps even companionable enough to want to invite them home for something to drink, a nice meal and some friendly conversation.

ABOUT THE WEBSITE

www.evethenovel.com or **www.aureliobrien.com**

What will shopping be like in the fourth millennium? What will be available for the well appointed home? Aurelio O'Brien uses his skills as an animator to help us imagine just such a future with this amusing spoof of on-line shopping.

And who knows, you may actually be persuaded to buy something!