

Jezero City Colony Mars Book 4

In this sneaky, silly picture book for fans of Oliver Jeffers and Jon Klassen, an intrepid—but not so clever—space explorer is certain he's found the only living thing on Mars. A young astronaut is absolutely sure there is life to be found on Mars. He sets off on a solitary mission, determined to prove the naysayers wrong. But when he arrives, equipped with a package of cupcakes as a gift, he sees nothing but a nearly barren planet. Finally, he spies a single flower and packs it away to take back to Earth as proof that there is indeed life on Mars. But as he settles in for the journey home, he cracks open his cupcakes—only to discover that someone has eaten them all! Readers will love being in on the secret: Unbeknownst to the explorer, a Martian has been wandering through the illustrations the whole time—and he got himself a delicious snack along the way. When a colonist dies in tragic circumstances, just a few sols before a major terraforming experiment, Dr. Jann Malbec begins to suspect that all is not what it seems. Her fears begin to grow when every attempt she makes to investigate the death is thwarted by the

ruling council on Mars. In desperation she resorts to secretly recruiting a recently arrived colonist, Mia Sorelli, an ex-cop with a troubled past, to quietly look into the incident. But Mia has some very good reasons why she left her old life on Earth behind. Nevertheless, she reluctantly accepts the assignment even if it means hooking up with the malcontented, semi-sentient droid, Gizmo. But what Mia uncovers goes way beyond anything she or Dr. Malbec could ever have imagined. As she investigates she begins to suspect that a terraforming experiment may be compromised by those who seek to undermine the future of the colony. Mia must now face down her old fears if she is to save, not just herself, but the entire population of Jezero City.

"Jezero City (Colony Four Mars): When a colonist dies in tragic circumstances, just a few sols before a major terraforming experiment, Dr. Jann Malbec begins to suspect that all is not what it seems. -- Surface Tension (Colony Five Mars): In the midst of the most devastating dust storm in the history of Mars, the survival of the half million people who call it home hangs in the balance. -- Plains of Utopia (Colony Six Mars): When an Earth-bound ship explodes

on the launchpad in Jezero City, and the DNA from two bodies recovered at the site are found to be an exact match, Dr. Jann Malbec is convinced that they are the product of a covert cloning program."--Amazon.com.

"Formerly the domain of fiction, moving human civilization to the stars is increasingly becoming a scientific possibility--and a necessity. Whether in the near future due to climate change and the depletion of finite resources, or in the distant future due to catastrophic cosmological events, we must face the reality that humans will one day need to leave planet Earth to survive as a species. World-renowned physicist and futurist Michio Kaku explores in rich, intimate detail the process by which humanity may gradually move away from the planet and develop a sustainable civilization in outer space. He reveals how cutting-edge developments in robotics, nanotechnology, and biotechnology may allow us to terraform and build habitable cities on Mars. He then takes us beyond the solar system to nearby stars, which may soon be reached by nanoships traveling on laser beams at near the speed of light. Finally, he brings us beyond our galaxy, and even beyond our universe, to the

possibility of immortality, showing us how humans may someday be able to leave our bodies entirely and laser port to new havens in space. With irrepressible enthusiasm and wonder, Dr. Kaku takes readers on a fascinating journey to a future in which humanity may finally fulfill its long-awaited destiny among the stars"--

A History

The Life and Death of Planet Earth

Cradle of Life

The Complete Trilogy

Jezero City

The Wendigo

The Martian Race

A one-way journey to Mars may be a mistake. Welcome to the first book of the On Mars series, a story of our near-future. Before you volunteer to settle on Mars, read Emma's struggle to slip the bonds of Earth and survive on a hostile planet. There are eight settlers on Mars until the colony's psychologist walks out an airlock to die on the cold, airless sands. Emma and her crewmates, the next mission of settlers, launch from Spaceport America despite the tragedy and despite their own misgivings. They take a tabby

kitten with them, as requested by the survivors on Mars, and hope to revive the shocked colony. Emma leaves everything she knows behind, including a sometimes-boyfriend who's dropped from the next mission - all for a chance to explore the Martian surface in her robotic walkabout suit. Her arrival on Mars isn't welcomed by all the colonists, and the mission loses more lives and vital supplies in a crash landing that may not be an accident. Crippled by an inexplicable sense of desolation, they face an unforgiving planet and even Earth may hold danger. The question isn't if the colonists will explore, but if they'll survive at all.

Teleportation, time machines, force fields, and interstellar space ships—the stuff of science fiction or potentially attainable future technologies? Inspired by the fantastic worlds of Star Trek, Star Wars, and Back to the Future, renowned theoretical physicist and bestselling author Michio Kaku takes an informed, serious, and often surprising look at what our current understanding of the

universe's physical laws may permit in the near and distant future. Entertaining, informative, and imaginative, *Physics of the Impossible* probes the very limits of human ingenuity and scientific possibility. What will it take to make humanity a spacefaring species? The usual: good reasons and good planning. Christopher Wanjek explores the practical motivations for striking out into the far reaches of the solar system and the realities of the challenge. And he introduces us to the scientists and entrepreneurs who are already tackling that challenge.

How can a colony on Mars survive when the greatest danger on the planet is humanity itself? All contact is lost with the first human colony on Mars during a long and destructive sandstorm. Satellite imagery of the aftermath shows extensive damage to the facility, and the fifty-four colonists who called it home are presumed dead. Three years later, a new mission sets down on the planet surface to investigate what remains of the derelict site. But, it's not long

before they realize the colony is not as lifeless as everyone thought. Someone is still alive -- hiding out somewhere. Yet, before they can find the elusive colonist a strange illness starts to affect the crew. Pressure now mounts on Biologist, Dr. Jann Malbec, to locate the source and find a way to fight it. However, as she investigates she begins to suspect a dark and deadly secret lurking within the facility. A secret that threatens not just the crew but the entire population of Earth. With limited resources and time running out, she must find some answers and find them fast. Because if she doesn't, none of them will be going home. About Colony One Mars: This is the first book in a Sci-Fi series set in a human colony on Mars. The science depicted is, for the most part, plausible. In other words, what's technically possible with either current technology or taking experimental research a step or two further. That said, you won't need a calculator or a slide-rule to enjoy the story.

Spacefarers

Absolutely Positive

Mars: A Volcanic World

Colony Mars Series

Glory on Mars

The Green Odyssey

Colonization

Reissued in new covers, this is the run-away bestseller from one of the world's leading theoretical physicists. Are there other dimensions beyond our own? Is time travel possible? Michio Kaku takes us on a tour of the most exciting work in modern physics, including research into the 10th dimension, time warps, and multiple universes, to outline what may be the leading candidate for the Theory of Everything.

Jason Burke was a man hiding from himself in a small cabin high in the American Rocky Mountains when his simple, quiet life was shattered one night by what he first assumed was an aviation mishap. But when he investigates the crash, what he finds will yank him out of his self-imposed exile and thrust him into a world he could have never imagined. He suddenly finds himself trapped on a damaged alien spacecraft and plunged into a universe of interstellar crime lords and government conspiracies, along the way meeting strange new friends... and enemies. As he struggles to find his way back home he is inexorably drawn deeper into a world where one misstep could mean his death. Or worse. He desperately wants to get back to Earth, but it may be the end for him. ... or is it just the beginning?

Richly illustrated with full-color images, this book is a

comprehensive, up-to-date description of the planets, their moons, and recent exoplanet discoveries. This second edition of a now classic reference is brought up to date with fascinating new discoveries from 12 recent Solar System missions. Examples include water on the Moon, volcanism on Mercury's previously unseen half, vast buried glaciers on Mars, geysers on Saturn's moon Enceladus, lakes of hydrocarbons on Titan, encounter with asteroid Itokawa, and sample return from comet Wild 2. The book is further enhanced by hundreds of striking new images of the planets and moons. Written at an introductory level appropriate for undergraduate and high-school students, it provides fresh insights that appeal to anyone with an interest in planetary science. A website hosted by the author contains all the images in the book with an overview of their importance. A link to this can be found at www.cambridge.org/solarsystem.

In the morning the camp was astir before the sun. There had been a light fall of snow during the night and the air was sharp. Punk had done his duty betimes, for the odors of coffee and fried bacon reached every tent. All were in good spirits. "Wind's shifted!" cried Hank vigorously, watching Simpson and his guide already loading the small canoe. "It's across the lake—dead right for you fellers. And the snow'll make bully trails! If there's any moose musing around up thar, they'll not get so much as a tail-end scent of you with the wind as it is. Good luck, Monsieur Défago!" he added, facetiously giving the name its French pronunciation for once, "bonne chance!" Défago returned

the good wishes, apparently in the best of spirits, the silent mood gone. Before eight o'clock old Punk had the camp to himself, Cathcart and Hank were far along the trail that led westwards, while the canoe that carried Défago and Simpson, with silk tent and grub for two days, was already a dark speck bobbing on the bosom of the lake, going due east. The wintry sharpness of the air was tempered now by a sun that topped the wooded ridges and blazed with a luxurious warmth upon the world of lake and forest below; loons flew skimming through the sparkling spray that the wind lifted; divers shook their dripping heads to the sun and popped smartly out of sight again; and as far as eye could reach rose the leagues of endless, crowding Bush, desolate in its lonely sweep and grandeur, untrodden by foot of man, and stretching its mighty and unbroken carpet right up to the frozen shores of Hudson Bay....

The Discovery of Earth's Earliest Fossils

The God Equation

An Unattractive Vampire

Colony Four Mars

The Quest for a Theory of Everything

Air

Surrounded by death on Mars, Bernice and her errant ex-husband Jason must solve a murder and unmask a traitor to save millions of lives threatened by a forgotten horror.

Films about Mars have been a science-fiction staple for

more than a century. From Thomas Edison's 1910 short film A Trip to Mars to Ridley Scott's 2015 smash hit The Martian, the red planet has captivated audiences worldwide. This comprehensive survey describes 98 significant (and not so) films, television movies and miniseries, and direct to video productions focusing on Mars. The author discusses them in their historical context and details the development of special effects and cinematic approaches through the years. Cast, crew and production information are provided where available, along with plot summaries and quotes from critics.

The Apollo 11 astronaut invites young people to evaluate Mars as a potential planet for human colonization, and describes what Mars residents might experience while traveling to and living on the Red Planet.

Jim Marlow and his strange-looking Martian friend Willis were allowed to travel only so far. But one day Willis unwittingly tuned into a treacherous plot that threatened all the colonists on Mars, and it set Jim off on a terrifying adventure that could save--or destroy--them all "From the Paperback edition."

The Origins of Slavery in America and Why it Matters Today and for Our Future in Outer Space

Colony One Mars: A SciFi Thriller

Beige Planet Mars

Entanglement

A Scientific Exploration into the World of Phasers,

Force Fields, Teleportation, and Time Travel

The Phenomenon of Bý?í Skála Cave

Topography and Places

A devastating dust storm. A colony on the edge of extinction. Only one person can save them. But first they need to start a revolution. In the midst of the most devastating dust storm in the history of Mars, the survival of the half million people who call it home is hanging in the balance. Yet for Major Mia Sorelli, of the Mars Law and Order Department, it's just another sol at the office - another sol trying to keep the desperate and angry citizens from tearing themselves apart. But when she's sent to investigate the death of a fellow officer in the lawless industrial city of Strytis, she begins to suspect that the endless dust storm may not be the only thing threatening their survival. With the help of her semi-sentient droid, Gizmo, they uncover a plot so heinous that her faith in humanity is almost shattered - and the only way for her to get it back, and save the colony, is to start a goddamn revolution. About Surface Tension: This is the fifth book in a Sci-Fi series set in a human colony on Mars, but it can also be read as a stand-alone novel. The science depicted is, for the most part, plausible. In other words, what's technically possible with either current technology or taking experimental research a step or two further. That said, you won't need a calculator or a slide-rule to enjoy the story. Can be read as a stand-alone novel.

Reading Order: Book 1: Colony One Mars Book 2: Colony Two Mars Book 3: Colony Three Mars (Completes the trilogy) Book 4: Jezero City, Colony Four Mars (Can be read as a stand-alone novel) Book 5: Surface Tension, Colony Five Mars (Can be read as a stand-alone novel)

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The Belt Series:Book 1: EntanglementBook 2: Entropy Book 3: Evolution

This book explores the practicality of using the existing subsurface geology on the Moon and Mars for protection against radiation, thermal extremes, micrometeorites and dust storms rather than building surface habitats at great expense at least for those first few missions. It encourages NASA to plan a precursor mission using this concept and employ a "Short Stay" Opposition Class mission to Mars as the first mission rather than the "Long Stay" concept requiring a mission that is too long, too dangerous and too costly for man's first missions to Mars. Included in these pages is a short history on the uses of caves by early humans over great periods of time. It then describes the ongoing efforts to research caves, pits, tunnels, lava tubes, skylights and the associated technologies that pertain to potential lunar and Mars exploration and habitation. It describes evidence for existing caves and lava tubes on

both the Moon and Mars. The work of noted scientists, technologists and roboticists are referenced and described. This ongoing work is more extensive than one would think and is directly applicable to longer term habitation and exploration of the Moon and Mars. Emphasis is also given to the operational aspects of working and living in lunar and Martian caves and lava tubes.

The book is divided into seven parts of discussions on one of the most famous localities on the territory of Moravia. It explains the existence of the cave in the landscape, the communication network and the network of artefacts in the human world (Parts 1 to 3). It further presents the complete human activities in Býčí Skála Cave from the Palaeolithic to today (Part 4), it starts from the archaeological, historical and ethnographic sources accumulated between 2007 and 2016. In the fifth part, it presents the complete landscape of the people of the Hallstatt Period and the emergence of the cave sanctuary in the unsettled landscape. In the sixth part, this landscape is look at in relation to mankind and the cave from the perspectives of sociology, cultural anthropology and religious studies. In the seventh part, the world and the life of "Wenkel's princess" - one of the wealthiest women of the time around the middle of the sixth century BC in Moravia from her birth to her death - is presented with elements of the

archaeological reconstruction.

Plains of Utopia

Colony Six Mars

How Humans Will Settle the Moon, Mars, and Beyond

The Soviet Experience and American Prospects Books 4-6

Reinventing Collapse

The Scientific Quest to Understand, Enhance, and Empower the Mind

Robert Zubrin: "Zimmerman's ground-breaking history provides every future generation the basic framework for establishing new societies on other worlds. We would be wise to heed what he says."

The human race is about to go to the stars. Big rockets are being built, and nations and private citizens worldwide are planning the first permanent settlements in space. When we get there, will we know what to do to make those first colonies just and prosperous places for all humans? Conscious Choice answers this question, by telling a riveting and accurate history of the first century of British settlement in North America. That was when those settlers were building their own new colonies, and had to decide whether to include slaves from Africa. In New England slavery was vigorously rejected. The Puritans wanted nothing to do with this institution, desiring instead to form a society of free religious families, a society that became the foundation of the

United States of American, dedicated to life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness. In Virginia however slavery was gladly embraced, resulting in a corrupt social order built on power, rule, and oppression. Why the New England citizens were able to reject slavery, and Virginians were not, is the story that *Conscious Choice* tells, a story with direct implications for all human societies, whether they are here on Earth or on the farflung planets across the universe. What others are saying: Rand Simberg: "In its '1619 Project,' a false and libelous narrative of America's past has recently been promoted by the New York Times. In a useful corrective, Zimmerman's book provides well-documented and new historical insights into the true history of slavery in colonial English America, with a cautionary warning for future settlers off the planet." Douglas Mackinnon "When humankind finally does venture forth to colonize the moon, Mars, and beyond, it is essential that each colonist have this book downloaded onto their tablet. It will guide them and most likely save them." James Bennett: "How was slavery born in the deep south of the United States? Robert Zimmerman's book *Conscious Choice* provides the answer, in a well-researched, detailed, but readable book free of academic jargon. He shows that slavery was not predetermined but was instead a series of conscious choices made by key individuals of that day. He also shows that it was not necessary, as demonstrated by

the decision of the northern British colonies to reject it. "Zimmerman then uses this history to show how it provides lessons to future explorers when they found their own new colonies in space."

This book is a comprehensive advancement about the understanding of the volcanology of Mars in all its aspects, from its primary formation to its evolution in time, from the smaller structures to the bigger structures. It discusses the implications of volcanism in the general environmental and geological context of Mars. The book is validating the Southern Giant Impact Hypothesis explaining the formation of Mars in an interdisciplinary approach, including mineralogical, geochemical, volcanological as well as geomorphological information. Implications for future explorations in terms of resources are provided. This book serves as a textbook for undergraduate and graduate level to foster new basic research in the field of planetary volcanology and is a new guide for future missions toward a volcanic world, including new detailed information for the general audience who is always keen to know more about the history of Mars and its large volcanoes. The book also presents an updated situation about the water resources of the planet. In this modern-day "lively re-imagining of classical mythology" (Deborah Harkness), when a string of women are murdered in an ancient pagan ritual, Selene DiSilvia -- known by some as the goddess

Artemis -- hears their cries for help and takes up her bow once more. Manhattan has many secrets. Some are older than the city itself. The city sleeps. In the predawn calm, Selene DiSilva finds the body of a young woman washed ashore, gruesomely mutilated and wreathed in laurel. Her ancient rage returns, along with the memory of a promise she made long ago -- when her name was Artemis. Jordanna Max Brodsky's acclaimed debut sets Greek Gods against a modern Manhattan backdrop, creating an unputdownable blend of myth and mystery. The Olympus Bound series: The Immortals Winter of the Gods Olympus Bound For more from Jordanna Max Brodsky, check out: The Wolf in the Whale

The discovery of a long lost spaceship transporting an experimental quantum device, ignites a system-wide power struggle. Fast paced old-school SciFi.

Welcome to Mars

Living in Caves on the Earth, Moon and Mars

Surface Tension

Conscious Choice

Hyperspace

Colony Mars

A Scientific Odyssey Through Parallel Universes, Time Warps, and the Tenth Dimension

Colony One Mars All contact is lost with the first human colony Mars during a long and destructive sandstorm. Satellite imagery the aftermath shows extensive damage to the facility. The fifty colonists who called it home are presumed dead. Three years la

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a new mission sets down on the planet surface to investigate the remains of the derelict site. But, it's not long before they realize the colony is not as lifeless as everyone thought. Someone is still alive -- hiding out somewhere. Yet, before they can find the elusive colonist a strange illness starts to affect the crew. Pressure now mounts on Biologist, Dr. Jann Malbec, to locate the source and find a way to fight it. However, as she investigates she begins to uncover a dark and deadly secret lurking within the colony. A secret that threatens not just the crew but the entire population of Earth. With limited resources and time running out, she must find some answers and find them fast. Because if she doesn't, none of them will be going home.

Colony Two Mars The only survivor of the ill-fated mission is now stranded on Mars. Having been designated a biohazard by Earth, any hope of returning home is all but gone. She is alone, isolated, and abandoned. That is, until another human shows up in the main colony airlock. However, he's barely alive and soon dies without regaining consciousness. More disturbing though, a DNA test identifies him as a colonist who has already died, several years earlier - impossible as that may be. Nevertheless, there is one place he could have come from, the mine on the far side of Jezero crater - Colony Two. An outpost they had presumed was long dead. But if he survived, maybe there are others still alive? She now has no choice but to attempt the dangerous journey across the crater to investigate. Because if she doesn't find some answers, her only future is to die alone on Mars.

Colony Three Mars Now that the truth of the genetic experiments on Mars has been revealed, new missions are on their way to gain control of this extraordinary technology. In the process, they seek to exploit and enslave the colonists-turning them into nothing more than lab rats. Worse, these newcomers are well armed, and prepared to go to war with each other to win control of the colony and its people. But Dr. Jann Malbec has a secret, one that she could use to spare the colonists and save the colonists from this fate. However, by using it she will almost certainly doom Earth to a planet-wide pandemic of

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apocalyptic proportions. Yet she must choose. Earth or Mars-
is is going to be?

The Green Odyssey' is an uproarious, hell-bent adventure story, combining fantasy, imagination and science, with a liberal dash of humor. It is in the best tradition of adventure science fiction, a swashbuckling tale of a resourceful spaceman who is, however, uneasily aware that he may have been miscast. Fortunately, he has the assistance of a large, gorgeous, energetic and adoring female who is supremely confident of his ability to handle all comers. With her help, that is. Alan Green was not exactly a hero. In fact he is a peace just as well as the next man. Not that he was really afraid of that crazy, hot-blooded hound-dog Alzo, or even of the hound's gorgeous owner, the Duchess Zuni-who was also hot-blooded (I say nothing of the Duke). After all, these things were understood on this backward, violent planet, and a man could manage, provided he was alert twenty-four hours a day.

A comprehensive atlas of the surface of Mars

Jezero City Colony Four Mars Createspace Independent Publishing Platform

Our Destiny in the Universe

Life on Mars

Essays

Year of No Rain

The Immortals

How the New Science of Astrobiology Charts the Ultimate Fate

Our World

Making a Home on the Red Planet

Draws on current findings in astrobiology to chart the story of the second half of the planet Earth's life, predicting that the process of planetary evolution will effectively reverse itself until life discontinues and the world becomes

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engulfed by an expanding sun. Reprint.
17,500 first printing.

From the Nebula Award-winning author of "Timescape" and "Foundation's Fear" comes a hard-science thriller about the race to Mars that will tie into NASA's upcoming landing on the planet.

In 1999, when rebel soldiers come to their village in southern Sudan, Stephen and his friends escape but hope to be able to return again.

An authoritative survey of current groundbreaking research into the human mind reveals how top international laboratories have innovated unique technologies for recording profound mental capabilities and enabling controversial opportunities in the field of cognition enhancement.

The Cambridge Guide to the Solar System
Omega Rising

The Mars Atlas

Colony Five Mars

Generation Mars, Book One

Physics of the Impossible

The Future of Humanity

This new edition of Reinventing Collapse is an update on the growing similarities and differences between the collapse of the Soviet Union and the current unraveling of the United States. With sharp wit and dry humor, Dmitry

Orlov shares his personal experiences in post-industrial living and argues that US collapse is survivable given the right attitude and preparation.

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BEST SELLER • The epic story of the greatest quest in all of science—the holy grail of physics that would explain the creation of the universe—from renowned theoretical physicist and author of *The Future of the Mind* and *The Future of Humanity* When Newton discovered the law of gravity, he unified the rules governing the heavens and the Earth. Since then, physicists have been placing new forces into ever-grander theories. But perhaps the ultimate challenge is achieving a monumental synthesis of the two remaining theories—relativity and the quantum theory. This would be the crowning achievement of science, a profound merging of all the forces of nature into one beautiful, magnificent equation to unlock the deepest mysteries in science: What happened before the Big Bang? What lies on the other side of a black hole? Are there other universes and dimensions? Is time travel possible? Why are we here? Kaku also explains the intense controversy swirling around this theory, with Nobel laureates taking opposite sides on this vital question. It is a captivating, gripping story; what's at stake is nothing less than our conception of the universe. Written with Kaku's trademark enthusiasm and clarity, this epic and engaging journey is the story of *The God Equation*.

Xenon Hybrid, the Red Planet's ceremonial head-

of-state, has not been seen for many years after withdrawing to an isolated enclave in the far north where he steadily built up a following of citizens seeking out an alternative lifestyle. They bother no one, and no one bothers them. But when an Earth-bound ship explodes on the launchpad in Jezero City, and the DNA from two bodies recovered at the site are found to be an exact match, Dr. Jann Malbec is convinced that they are the product of a covert cloning program. More troubling still is that the DNA is a very close match to the reclusive and enigmatic Xenon. Meanwhile, newly promoted Mars Envoy, Mia Sorelli, finds herself stuck on the planet after her ride back to Earth is now a charred hunk of metal. She begins to get an uneasy feeling that someone may be trying to assassinate her, and Mia's suspicions start to focus on a clandestine group of Xenon's followers. As these parallel investigations begin to converge, it becomes apparent to both Jann and Mia that the peaceful and simple lifestyle of the Xenonists is not all that it seems. There is a darker ideology bubbling underneath the surface, one that threatens to bring catastrophe to the entire population on Mars. But will anyone believe them in time?

Dr. Malbec suspects that a terraforming experiment may be compromised by those who seek to undermine the future of the colony. She secretly recruits a recently arrived colonist, Mia Sorelli, an ex-cop with a troubled past. Mia must now face down her old fears if she is to save, not just herself, but the entire population of Jezero

City.

Landscape, Cave and Mankind

Red Planet

From Cave Man to Cave Martian

**The Goodbye Diaries: A Mother-Daughter
Memoir**

Mars in the Movies

The Future of the Mind

"A darned good read...finished it in one sitting. Charming characters I'd love to visit again." — Lynsay Sands, New York Times best-selling author of The Argeneau series "Thought vampires were dead? Well of course they are, but Jim McDoniel proves that don't have to be boring. Or sparkly." — Veronica Belmont and Tom Merritt, *Sword & Laser*

Jim McDoniel's debut novel, *An Unattractive Vampire*, is a darkly comic urban fantasy of ancient horrors in suburban cities. After three centuries trapped underground, thousand-year-old Yulric Bile—also known as the Curséd One, the Devil's Apprentice, He Who Worships the Slumbering Horrors—awakens only to find that no one believes he is a vampire. Apparently he's just too ugly—modern vampires, he soon discovers, are pretty, weak, and, most disturbing of all, good. Determined to

reestablish his bloodstained reign, Yulric sets out to correct this disgusting turn of events or, at the very least, murder the person responsible. With the help of pert vampire-wannabe Amanda; Simon, the eight-year-old reincarnation of his greatest foe; and a cadre of ancient and ugly horrors, Yulric prepares to battle the glamorous undead. But who will win the right to determine, once and for all, what it truly means to be a vampire?

One of the greatest mysteries in reconstructing the history of life on Earth has been the apparent absence of fossils dating back more than 550 million years. We have long known that fossils of sophisticated marine life-forms existed at the dawn of the Cambrian Period, but until recently scientists had found no traces of Precambrian fossils. The quest to find such traces began in earnest in the mid-1960s and culminated in one dramatic moment in 1993 when William Schopf identified fossilized microorganisms three and a half billion years old. This startling find opened

up a vast period of time--some eighty-five percent of Earth's history--to new research and new ideas about life's beginnings. In this book, William Schopf, a pioneer of modern paleobiology, tells for the first time the exciting and fascinating story of the origins and earliest evolution of life and how that story has been unearthed. Gracefully blending his personal story of discovery with the basics needed to understand the astonishing science he describes, Schopf has produced an introduction to paleobiology for the interested reader as well as a primer for beginning students in the field. He considers such questions as how did primitive bacteria, pond scum, evolve into the complex life-forms found at the beginning of the Cambrian Period? How do scientists identify ancient microbes and what do these tiny creatures tell us about the environment of the early Earth? (And, in a related chapter, Schopf discusses his role in the controversy that swirls around recent claims of fossils in the famed meteorite from Mars.) Like all great

teachers, Schopf teaches the non-specialist enough about his subject along the way that we can easily follow his descriptions of the geology, biology, and chemistry behind these discoveries. Anyone interested in the intriguing questions of the origins of life on Earth and how those origins have been discovered will find this story the best place to start.