Humans

The second volume in Robert J. Sawyer’s acclaimed Neanderthal Parallax trilogy is the lead science-fiction hardcover for February 2003 from Tor Books, New York, the world’s largest SF publisher.

Humans picks up the story immediately after the end of Hominids, volume one in the series, with Neanderthal quantum-physicist Ponter Boddit trying to reopen the portal between his universe and ours, in hopes of rejoining his beloved Mary Vaughan.

Humans features the same mixture of intimate character drama and big ideas that made the first volume such a success, while considerably upping the ante, putting the future of both versions of Earth at stake. Sawyer is already scheduled for numerous US and Canadian press interviews promoting the release.

Tor is issuing Neanderthal Parallax novels at an aggressive pace. Hybrids, the concluding volume, will be out in hardcover in September 2003 (seven months after Humans), launching at the World SF Convention in Toronto.

Hominids

Following a very successful run in hardcover, Hominids, the first volume of the Neanderthal Parallax trilogy, is now available throughout North America in a mass-market paperback edition from Tor.

Hominids spent three months on the hardcover bestsellers’ list published by Locus, the trade journal of the science-fiction field. It was included on the “Year’s Best” lists published by the San Francisco Chronicle and Borders Books, and is currently on the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America’s Preliminary Nebula Award Ballot.
SFWRITER.COM is published occasionally to spotlight news about Nebula Award-winning Canadian science-fiction writer Robert J. Sawyer. You can send email to Rob at sawyer@sfwriter.com, or write to him at:
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Ryerson Honors Rob

Toronto’s Ryerson University presented Robert J. Sawyer with its Alumni Award of Distinction in September 2002, “in recognition of a career marked by outstanding professional achievement and distinguished personal service in the community.”

Rob is one of only 30 out of 100,000 Ryerson graduates so honored to date.

The silver plaque at left is on display in the lobby of Jorgenson Hall, Ryerson’s main administrative building.

Brin and McDevitt Praise HUMANS

“The biggest job of science fiction is to portray the Other; to help us imagine the strange and see the familiar in eerie new ways. Nobody explores this territory more boldly than Robert J. Sawyer.” — David Brin, author of Kiln People

“Sawyer takes on guns, religious assumptions, automobiles, and even the Big Bang in this highly entertaining tale of a (more or less) rational Outsider. The chapter at the Vietnam Wall should be required reading for anyone who wishes to sit in the Oval Office.” — Jack McDevitt, author of Chindi

Publishers Weekly Review of HUMANS

“...in this solid sequel to Hominids (2002), the much-praised first volume in Sawyer’s Neanderthal Parallax trilogy, which introduced an alternate Earth where for reasons unknown our species, Homo sapiens, went extinct and Neanderthals flourished, Neanderthal physicist Ponter Boddit brings Canadian geneticist Mary Vaughan back to his world to explore the near-utopian civilization of the Neanderthals. Boddit serves as a Candide figure, the naïve visitor whose ignorance about our society makes him a perfect tool to analyze human tendencies toward violence, over-population and environmental degradation. The Neanderthals have developed a high artistic, ethical and scientific culture without ever inventing farming—they’re still hunters and gatherers—and this allows the author to make some interesting and generally unrecognized points about the downsides of the discovery of agriculture. Much of the novel is devoted to either the discussion of ideas such as these or to Boddit and Vaughan’s developing love affair. Sawyer keeps things moving by throwing in an attempted assassination, his protagonists’ confrontation with a rapist and, on a larger scale, the growing danger of what appears to be the imminent reversal of Earth’s magnetic field. As the middle volume in a trilogy, this book doesn’t entirely stand on its own, but it is extremely well done. When complete, the Neanderthal Parallax should add significantly to Sawyer’s reputation.”