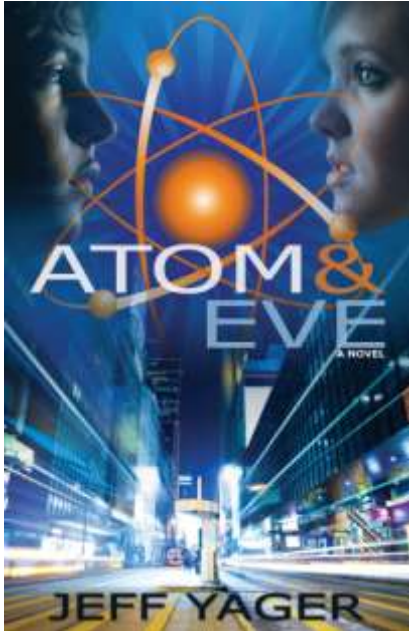


Reading Group Guide



In this controversial debut YA science fiction novel, a precocious teenager finds himself in a world where the cure for a deadly virus has unforeseen and dramatic side effects.

ATOM AND EVE

by Jeff Yager

255 pages

Hannacroix Creek Books, Inc.

\$16.95 trade paperback retail list price ISBN 978-1-938998-34-8

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About This Book

Set several years in the future, sixteen-year-old Ricky Romanello is playing basketball when he collapses and winds up in a coma. Ricky is suffering from a powerful flu that hits the U.S. population causing deaths and a dramatic economic slowdown. Research scientist Dr. Mandy Fox has been developing an anti-aging drug that she believes might also eradicate the flu. The government rushes approval for the drug before Ricky and the rest of the population can discover there is an unintended side effect that has catastrophic consequences.

Discussion Questions

1. The very first line in *Atom and Eve* is this quote by the author: "Men and women will never truly understand each other until they switch roles and view life from the other's perspective." This is a primary theme and leads us to wonder how we would react to such changes. Have you ever thought about what it might be like if you were born as the opposite sex to what you are now?
2. A key theme in *Atom and Eve* is how the drug to cure or prevent the pandemic flu starts to have gender-bending consequences. Do you think there is the possibility of someone inventing such a drug? What traits do men have that women might actually benefit from? And what traits do women have that men usually lack that might actually help men?
3. The novel is "set in the near future," which puts it in the category of "sci-fi." Why do you think a novelist uses the literary device of setting a novel in the future rather than writing about what's going on in the present or even in the recent past?
4. Who is your favorite character in *Atom and Eve*? Why?
5. Who is your least favorite character in *Atom and Eve*? Why?
6. One of the social and political hypotheticals in the novels is that there is a female presidential candidate in the United States, Kendra Martin. Looking ahead to the 2016 election, do you see this as a possibility? Why? Why not? Why do you think there has not yet been a female

presidential candidate or president in the United States? Do you see that changing in the near or distant future? Why? Why not?

7. Have you ever thought about how drugs are tested or approved by a government? What did you learn about how that process occurs in the novel that you think mirrors or contradicts what really happens? How long do you think it usually take to get a new drug or vaccine tested and approved by the federal government?
8. If you were the author of *Atom and Eve*, are there any characters you would have depicted differently, or plot points that you would have changed? Why?
9. If you could ask the author a question about his novel, what would it be?
10. Find the scene and dialogue you like the most in the novel and pair up with someone else in the Reading Group to act out that scene for the group. Let's discuss those characters, the scene, and the dialogue. Why did you pick that particular scene and dialogue out from the novel?
11. The author uses the device of beginning each chapter with a quote from someone famous. Do you like that device? Why? Why not? What is your favorite quote? What other novels or nonfiction books have you read that use that same literary technique?

Critical Praise

"*Atom & Eve*" is one of the most imaginative young adult novels I have read in quite a while and a great debut for its author, Jeff Yager..."

—Alan Caruba, Editor, Bookviews.com, Founding member of the National Book Critics Circle

"From the suspenseful exposition to the surprise ending with a special twist-- Jeff Yager's debut is a fun and fast read: once you pick it up and get entangled in its fascinating gender-bending storyline, you will not be able to put it down!"

—Anette Isaacs, international speaker and travel guide

"*Atom and Eve* has a very unique story line and style of writing, building up tension not just around one hero or heroine but across a cluster of unconventional people..."

—Rei Kimura, novelist, *My Name is Eric*

"In his wonderful debut novel, *Atom and Eve*, Jeff Yager has the uncanny ability to look into the female psyche and to open readers to the endless possibilities and creative energy of the divine feminine..."

—Kim McMillon, playwright and host of *Arts in the Valley*, 1480 KYOS AM, San Joaquin Valley, California

Author Biography



Jeff Yager grew up in Stamford, Connecticut; he now lives in Clearwater, Florida. He began writing *Atom and Eve* when he was just 19 years old. The author has studied professional wrestling in new Jersey and Florida and participated in many matches. He now works for an international fast food chain and writes in his spare time. *Atom and Eve* is Jeff Yager's first novel.

Author Interview

What's the number one idea you hope readers take away from your novel, *Atom and Eve*?

Nothing is certain in this world. With all prejudices aside, things can change very quickly, sometimes for good, and sometimes for bad. We as humans must adapt to change and keep those traits that separate us from other species and beings.

If you could have a party and invite any writers from throughout history or even from today, who would that be?

Hunter S. Thompson, J.D. Salinger, William Shakespeare, and Stephen King. Now that sounds like a party!

Why did you start writing *Atom and Eve*?

Four years ago, I had an idea for a book that I wanted to write and I decided, why not? So, for a couple of years, I worked on it, I'd go away from it, and come back to it, and finally, after many drafts and treacherous days of writer's block, I finished it. I guess I wrote it to prove to myself that I could. It's a great feeling to fulfill a goal that you set out that may initially seem easier said than done.

What do you plan to do to get the word out about your novel?

Since this is my first novel, I plan to do a healthy amount of marketing, but I also hope it picks up steam through word of mouth. I plan on using multiple social networks to broaden the spectrum of readers who might find this novel interesting.

Sales information

Available through all major wholesalers at your favorite local brick-and-mortar stores, including Barnes and Noble (<http://www.barnesandnoble.com>) and Books-a-million (<http://www.booksamillion.com>) and independent booksellers, such as <http://www.inkwoodbooks.com> Inkwood Books (Tampa, Florida), [powells.com](http://www.powells.com) (Portland, Oregon), <http://www.barrettbookstore.com> (Darien, Connecticut), and tatteredcover.com (Denver, Colorado), www.indiebound.org, or through your preferred online retailer such as <http://www.amazon.com>, <http://www.bn.com> (nook press), <http://www.kobo.com>, [parnassusbooks.net](http://www.parnassusbooks.net) (Nashville), and others.

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