

WHAT TO KNOW TO SOUND LIKE YOU'VE READ THE BOOK

Overview – After Eden Series, Book #2

Stars And Scorpions is the second sci-fi thriller of author Austin Dragon—a dramatic mix of politics, religion, and intrigue set over 75 years in the future.. The saga continues in the year 2088. There is a conspiracy in Washington DC—to purge religiosity from the nation by, of all people, the president. Some say it's his reaction to seeing the Fall of Western Europe to the Supreme Islamic Caliphate decades ago. Others say his motives are far more sinister. It all leads to the explosion of World War III—the first global war of the Tek Age, a hell we have never seen before.

From the Back Cover:

World War III begins on September 11, 2125. There are three remaining superpowers in the world—but there can only be one.

In the year 2088, the 21st century nears its end. “Wonderful” Tek World with its looming glass and steel towers, a.i. controlled cars and roadways, and net-enhanced residents under the watchful eyes of the grid.

There is a conspiracy in Washington DC—to purge religiosity from the nation by, of all people, the president. Some say it's his reaction to seeing the fall of Western Europe to the Supreme Islamic Caliphate decades ago. Others say his motives are far more sinister.

But the resistance grows.

In America, the paramilitary leader of a secret Jewish group has set in motion a series of events. In Mexico, a young catholic priest becomes a mythic leader, but will he live long enough to join the resistance?

It all leads not just to the third of the world wars, but to the explosion of the first global war of the Tek Age—a hell we have never seen before.

Stars and Scorpions is Book Two of the epic After Eden Series.

The Cover:

The cover of Book# 2, as with the first book, clearly suggests two main themes in this science fiction thriller series: firstly, politics with the picture of the Capitol Building and, secondly, religion with the images of a Star of David and cross. The color scheme of the yellow sky and the scorpion in the center is very striking, but what does it mean?

Main Themes:

- (1) Technology. The population seems obsessed with their “toys”: computer-interface glasses, ubiquitous mobile devices, smart-cars that drive themselves, smart-houses that do all the cleaning and cooking for you, the occasional robot pet. The modern word is no

longer technology but “tek.” The government has also embraced the new tek with ever-flying drones, ever-watching surveillance digital video systems and cybernetically-enhanced police officers.

There is a battle between the technology-saturated major tek-cities of the Pagan (anti-religious) society and the outer, self-segregated religious communities who live a simpler life but are very much as tek-savvy as the rest of the population.

- (2) Politics. The political landscape of the books is not contemporary. It is seventy-five years in the future. There is never a discussion of liberal or conservative, or even libertarian or independent. The political battles are gone. The government is obsessed with maintaining the order of Tek-World (general society) and fighting domestic and foreign terrorism.
- (3) Religion. In America religious people are now the minority as opposed to the eighty percent today who believe in God. The government and the culture is very much anti-religious and have passed laws to reflect their modern views. Religious people haven't completely disappeared; they live outside of the main tek-cities. We also see there are new, recognized religions: Vampires, Vulcans, Jedis, etc.

The battle extends beyond religious versus non-religious. Jews battle Jews, Christians versus Christians, etc. The series is filled with religious and non-religious “good guys” and “bad guys.”

Also interesting is the division of the book into two parts: the Jewish Order and the Catholic Order. In this book, we will be encountering members of contemporary religions central to the story line. The last book we had Christians (Protestants) and the Amish.

- (4) Culture. The tek-cities may be wonderful to most of the population, but the cracks in “paradise” are also apparent. There are growing non-religious sub-populations: Anarchists, Nihilists, Hedonists, etc. Gender identification is mandatory by the government and there are now six gender categories. Marriage in any form is legal, all drugs are legal, and all sex occupations are legal.

Moreover, the general population is so integrated with tek at all times, that commentators are starting to refer to humankind as a new and permanent cyber-tek species.

- (5) Science. We learn that scientific advancements of this future are astonishing. There is no such thing as “unwanted pregnancies” or abortions because people are basically “neutered” at birth and can be “switched on” at adulthood anytime to have children by the government. We also have body-farms where any limb or organ can be grown to replace the damaged body part on a person. Unfortunately, the science has also progressed to the level where non-human organisms can be created for purposes no one would regard as “good.”