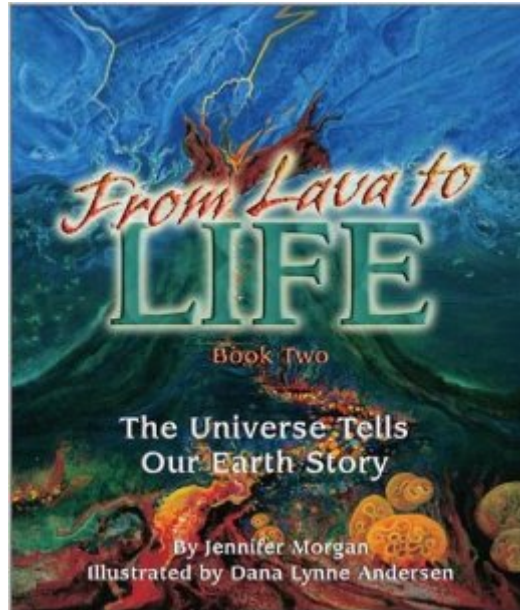


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From Lava To Life: The Universe Tells Our Earth Story: Book 2 (The Universe Series)



Synopsis

"Once upon a time" meets science in a children's picture book that tells the thrilling story of how life began on Earth. The second in a trilogy of Universe stories - the first being "Born with a Bang: The Universe Tells Our Cosmic Story"-- this book picks up the story with the first appearance of life on Earth. It's a thrilling story about how Earth triumphs over crisis to become bacteria, jellyfish, flowers . . . even dinosaurs! The author, Jennifer Morgan, studied evolutionary science and saw its storytelling possibilities when she explained it to her elementary-age son. Coupled with brilliant artwork by Dana Anderson, who also studied Cosmology, these books will intrigue children and adults alike with their storytelling style and colorful pages.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 790L (What's this?)

Series: From Lava to Life (Book 2)

Paperback: 48 pages

Publisher: Dawn Pubns; 1 edition (January 1, 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1584690429

ISBN-13: 978-1584690429

Product Dimensions: 9.8 x 0.2 x 11.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (29 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #54,841 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #38 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Biology](#) #987 in [Books > Children's Books > Science, Nature & How It Works](#)

Age Range: 8 - 11 years

Grade Level: 3 - 6

Customer Reviews

As a scientist who works on early evolution I was looking for a book for my 7 year old cousin who is fascinated by science that would counterbalance the creationism he is getting in Sunday school. I purchased this book after reading reviews but was skeptical that it would be accurate. I was beyond thrilled while reading through it! Jennifer Morgan does an excellent job of taking the origin of life, evolution of eukaryotes, prokaryotes and metazoans, the oxygen crisis, migration from sea to land and mass extinctions and making it understandable to children (and lay adults!) I found no true

errors in the science, only things that I wish were expanded on such as calling the "mounds of bacteria" what they are, stromatolites (though I may be biased as I work on these and other similar structures!) Evolution is never mentioned by name though she does a wonderful job of saying that certain animals are "your ancestors" and, for example, how dinosaurs evolved into what are ancestors to modern birds. I honestly believe that not only should every child be reading this book and that it would be an excellent addition to grade school science curriculum, but that every adult in the United States should read this as well. I had several adult friends and family members read it and they said they finally understood certain concepts that I work on and have tried to explain to them in the past. One friend actually said "oh so that is the difference between a eukaryote and a prokaryote!" I'm going to purchase a second copy to keep for myself to help explain the origins of life and early evolution to others. I look forward to purchasing the other two books in this series and highly recommend this book to anyone.

Told as if the Universe has patted her lap & invited to you up for grand story, she takes you back into a time before time, when the Earth was formed, long, long before you or I were motes in the storm. Long before dinosaurs were born & flowers grew. Told in a confidential, amusing & lyrical turn of phrase, FROM LAVA TO LIFE spills the beans on how life began here from microscopic cells in a churning brew of chemicals as our raw orb rolled around the heavens. Fascinating images! Dana Lynn Andersen captures our imagination with her broad strokes of things bigger & smaller than one pair of eyes can see. Jennifer Morgan's sense of humor is both reverential & irreverent, charming & instructive. If you are stumped when your kids ask the oldest of questions: "Where did I come from?" Then FROM LAVA TO LIFE & its prequel BORN WITH A BANG are for you!

While the science in this book may be sound, the way it is presented made me decide not to show it to my 9 year old daughter for whom I had purchased it. I didn't know that I ought to take the sub-title seriously. "The Universe Tells Our Earth Story" means that the authorial voice is actually that of the universe (ie, God). Here's a sample from page 7: "Earth was one of my most imaginative young planets. Her dreams were packed with worms and wolves, daffodils and dinos, raccoons and baboons, peach trees and palm trees, caves and castles. Would Earth become all those things in her dreams? I wondered too..." Her "dreams"? The author anthropomorphizes the universe and earth, assigning earth a female gender and imagining "her" to have dreams. That's science? And when the author writes "How I loved your special planet." she gives a personality to the universe that implies intention and design. "Intelligent Design" is the latest branding for religious dogma

masked as science; this book, perhaps inadvertently, supports that point of view. From the reviews I read that lead me to purchase the book, I got the impression that the author would present the story of earth's evolution based purely on science, rather than imposing a creation myth. It's disappointing that she muddies her science with gratuitous poetic license. I prefer my science straight.

From Lava To Life: The Universe Tells Our Earth Story by storyteller, educator, and environmental advocate Jennifer Morgan is the second volume in an amazing summary series for readers ages 8 through 12 of what science can tell us about how the Earth came to be, and how life arose upon and in it. Vividly illustrated in striking color by Dana Lynne Andersen, From Lava To Life is a most fascinating introduction to science for young readers, beginning with the formation of the earth and concluding with the age of the dinosaur. From Lava To Life is also available in hardcover. Also very highly recommended for young readers is the first volume covering the birth of the universe and the development of the solar system, Born With A Bang: The Universe Tells Our Cosmic Story: Book 1.

After reading this book, my five-year-old grandson brought me a picture he had drawn of a eukaryote with a twisted DNA helix and mitochondria. I promptly order its sequel. I even reread the book on my own to help my understanding of the terminology of early evolution.

This series tells the story perfectly and with grand and warm illustrations the story of our earth's birth. The author captures my spiritual beliefs perfectly, and I enjoy reading this story again and again to my Montessori home-schooled child. This is a perfect way to tell the first Great Lesson in the Montessori curriculum!

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