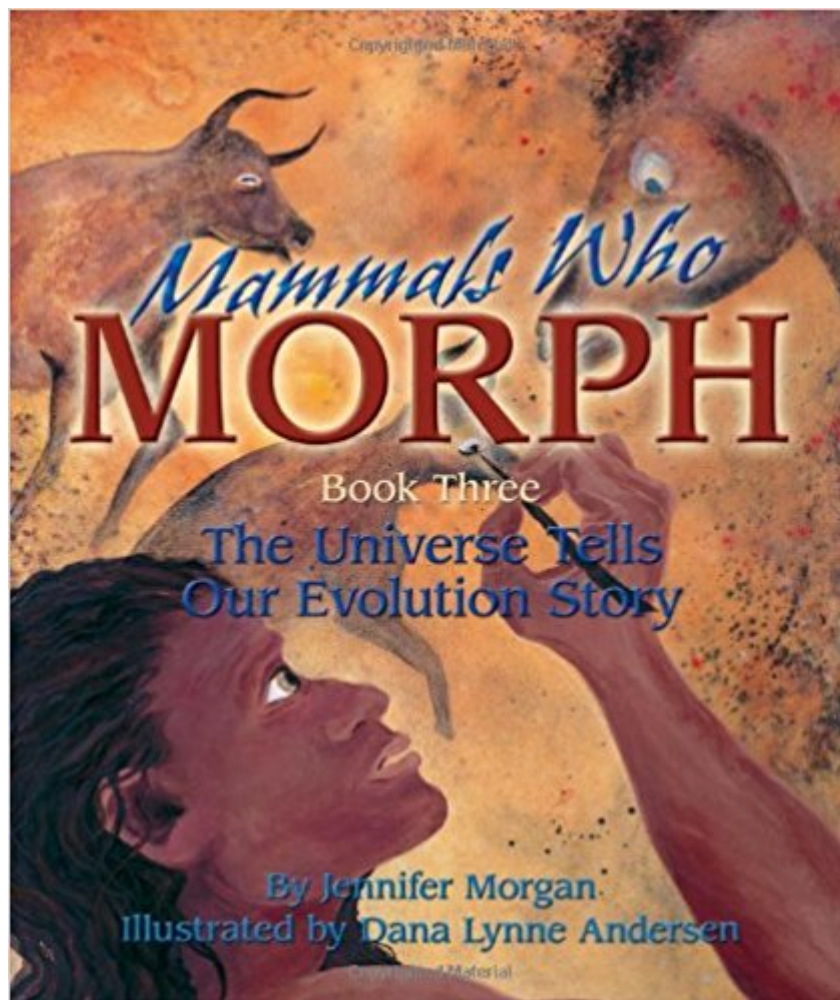




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Mammals Who Morph: The Universe Tells Our Evolution Story: Book 3 (The Universe Series)



Synopsis

This remarkable evolution series, narrated by the Universe itself, concludes with this third book, the amazing story of mammals and humans. It picks up after *From Lava to Life: The Universe Tells Our Earth Story* with the extinction of dinosaurs, and tells how tiny mammals survived and morphed into lots of new Earthlings -- horses, whales and a kind of mammal with a powerful imagination--you! It is a story of chaos, creativity and heroes--the greatest adventure on Earth! And it is a personal story . . . about our bodies, our minds, and spirits. It is our story. As the president of the American Montessori Society said, These books are alive with wonder, radiance, and deep relevance.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 18 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #56,561 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #37 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Biology](#) #93 in [Books > Children's Books > Animals > Mammals](#) #340 in [Books > Science & Math > Evolution](#)

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 2 - 7

Customer Reviews

Grade 2-4 -- This follow-up to *The Big Bang* (2002) and *From Lava to Life* (2003, both Dawn) is the last in a trilogy in which the personified universe presents the history of our cosmos in letters to an Earthling. This one picks up at the dawn of the Age of Mammals and ends with present-day humans inhabiting a modern Earth. Enveloped in a New Age-ish aura, the chatty text (Wow! Humans tamed fire!) is accompanied by frequently swirling art that may not reach the intended audience. While evolution is used in the subtitle and appears in the afterword for adults, it is never defined, not even in the glossary; nor are the terms natural selection or morph. There are occasional lapses in accuracy (Some day, their ancestors would be true hippos. Unh-uh.

Descendants, please.) and manages to impart a good dollop of oversimplification as well. Creationists, who will be cranky in any case due to the proffered concepts, will not find God in the text, and pure scientists will balk at some of the statements (grass loved horses) and the unexplained gaps in known evolutionary trails. Satisfy young readers interested in evolution with titles such as Steve Jenkins's handsome *Life on Earth* (Houghton, 2002) or Lisa Westberg Peters's excellent *Our Family Tree* (Harcourt, 2003).
Patricia Manning, formerly at Eastchester Public Library, NY Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

"...Readers young and old will be intrigued and informed by this science-based tale from Mother Universe." -- ForeWord Magazine, November/December 2006 "...mammalian evolution told in a way that will engage and enchant, as well as educate, children and adults alike." --Dr. Jane Goodall, Primatologist, Founder of The Jane Goodall Institute

As an Agnostic in the Midwest, answering a child's questions about how things came to be can often be difficult if you are trying to avoid them being ostracized at a very young age. This book helps answer many of those questions in a way that is not likely to promote her being ridiculed, and my 4-year-old daughter LOVES it. It is easy for her to understand as I read it and she is full of wonderful insight and questions. She is enthralled with science and I believe this book's telling of our universe's story will give her a head start on free thinking as she grows and develops. And she absolutely loves the artwork and being able to identify different parts of the illustrations. I would definitely recommend this book!

As with the first two books in this series (*Born With a Bang: The Universe Tells Our Cosmic Story* (Sharing Nature With Children Book) and *From Lava to Life: The Universe Tells Our Earth's Story* (Sharing Nature With Children Book)), the scientific information in this book is accurate, the level of detail is just right for elementary schoolers, the graphics are vivid and engaging, and the narrative speaks in an effective personal voice. Most importantly, my daughter really loves this book (almost as much as the previous two books), as evidenced by her unusually focused attentiveness to the text and her vivid recollection of the graphics. In short, this book was written specifically to engage and teach kids, and it works. Highly recommended to any parent wishing to introduce their child to the basics of the evolutionary history of mammals and humans.

The writing is a bit too wild and confusing and doesn't always reflect the pictures. I will have to interpret it for my first and second graders

prompt delivery and book is like what they described.

terrific

this series is great, and my daughter absolutely loves when i read them. this book is probably the best and most descriptive evolution book geared towards kids! highly recommend for any parent who wants to teach their kids about the origin of the earth and the evolution of all live on it!

My 5 year old daughter got this series from Santa, and we love, love, love all three books, but especially Mammals Who Morph. There is an amazing amount of natural history (focusing on human evolution), but it is presented in a way that a 5 year old can understand most of it. But even better, this book inspires awe, curiosity, and wonder. I expect these books to hold our interest for several years, and as she grows she will understand more and more of the details and implications introduced in these books. Many adults (including myself) could also learn from these books. Amazing books - I wish that there were more!

This third and final volume in a now-classic series of children's books culminates in a square look at the bad news facing our own impetuous species today (environmental decline, embattled peoples). Yet it leaves readers inspired to do their part in carrying the awesome multi-billion-year story of the universe forward in healthy ways. In all three volumes of cosmic, biological, and cultural history -- *Born With a Bang: The Universe Tells Our Cosmic Story* (Sharing Nature With Children Book), *From Lava to Life: The Universe Tells Our Earth's Story* (Sharing Nature With Children Book), and *Mammals Who Morph: The Universe Tells Our Evolution Story* (Sharing Nature With Children Book) -- the author presents episodes of catastrophes that actually happened: subatomic particle annihilation in volume 1, the oxygen crisis and meteor impact in volume 2, and in this volume (number 3) how the bright side of human ingenuity can also morph into a dark side: technological inventiveness that can turn disagreements into inter-group warfare and that can devastate ecologies in unanticipated ways. Too often, books written for children sugarcoat the natural world and our own human history -- thus offering scant guidance for finding one's way through the challenges of life. In this book children and adults alike have their trust/faith

strengthened, knowing that throughout the Big History of their own cosmic and biological ancestry challenges arose that would have seemed insurmountable at the time. Nonetheless, something good would eventually be born from each moment of mayhem. More, the innate creativity of the universe and living processes was thereby evoked into utterly new and sometimes sublime expression. In a very real way, crucial advances in complexity and the evolution of co-operation can, in hindsight, now be attributed to these very same obstacles. Catastrophes call forth creativity, surely in our own little lives as well as in the Great Story discovered by scientists that gathers all of us -- from stars to bacteria to primates -- into one magnificent family. As an itinerant "evolutionary evangelist" over the past 8 years, I have sold this science-based trilogy wherever I speak (in churches, monasteries, classrooms, conference settings, and nature centers). Thousands of people who took these books home with them have since thanked me, and profusely. They read it to their children; they gave it to their grandchildren; they used these books as curriculum in Sunday School classes. I have even heard of this trilogy being used as the primary texts for teaching the Big History story of everything and everyone to ministers and religious educators. Jennifer Morgan's ideas and words in this series are robustly supported by the rich and evocative illustrations by Dana Lynne Andersen. In this third volume the juxtaposition of deep blue with earthy orange on many of the pages creates a color scheme that embeds in one's emotional memory -- as do Dana's choice of image subjects. Who can forget the scientifically accurate rendering of an ancestral miniature horse (evolved not long after the extinction of the great dinosaurs) as it is held aloft in the horse-killing beak of a giant Terror Bird! This is a story that fascinates and grounds us in reality. We all have a long and magnificent history! This is a story, too, that will not fade into mere metaphor or outright die during the transition from fantasy to fact that we each must navigate as the birthdays cycle by. Rather, the relevance and power of this story grows right along with us. ~ Michael Dowd Author of "Thank God for Evolution: How the Marriage of Science and Religion Will Transform Your Life and Our World"

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