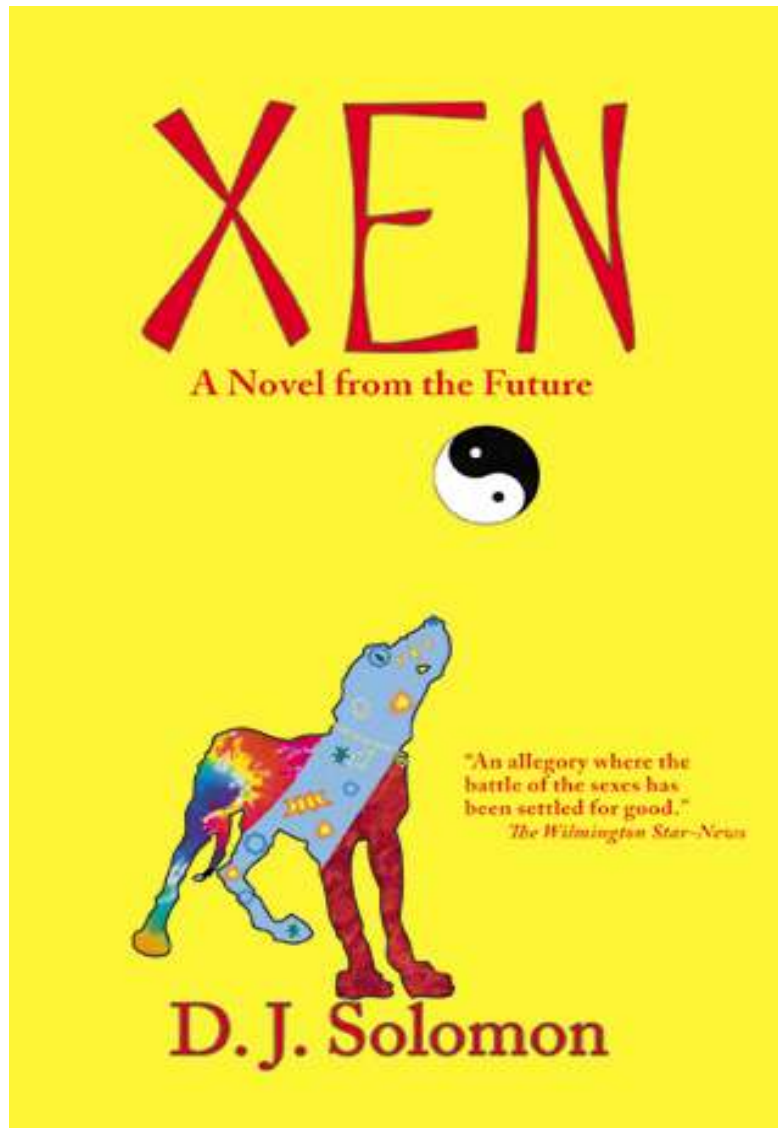


Media Kit



D. J. Solomon ~ Bio

D.J. Solomon is the author of XEN, Ancient English Edition, published by Avar Press in 2004. As the last testament of mankind, XEN recounts the tale of the 21st century misanthropic scientist who banished evil from the world, marking the end of hate and prejudice. For more information about the novel, please visit www.xenbook.com. For more information on Avar Press, please see www.avarpress.com.

XEN is Solomon's second book but first novel. The first was published in 1979 by W.B. Saunders when he was 25. In *Getting Into Medical School* he discussed the pre-med dilemmas of the day, helping the reader put forth the strongest application possible.

Solomon received his M.D. from Stanford after graduating from Brandeis University, Phi Beta Kappa. In high school he became a Westinghouse Science Talent Search Scholarship winner. He completed his internship & residency at Duke and a fellowship at the University of North Carolina. He currently has an active private practice in rural North Carolina.

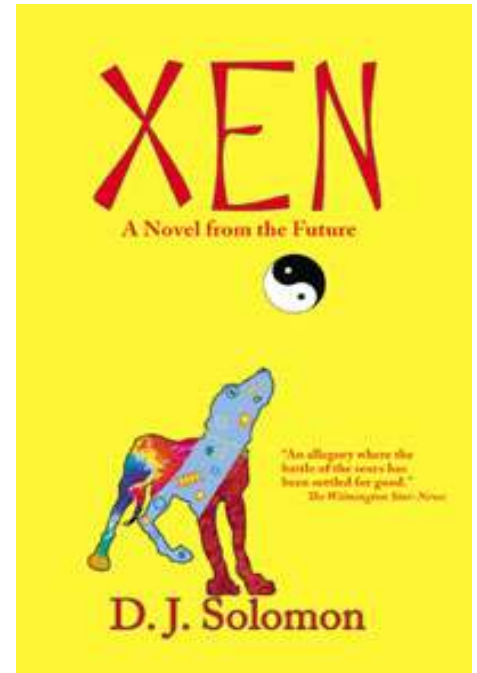
Dr. Solomon has been the guest of radio and television programs on various neurologic questions, has presented at a national association of Social Security and disability lawyers in Washington, D.C., has authored the section for neurology in Social Security Practice Guide (Matthew Bender, 1991), has been a frequent expert witness, and has coauthored previous articles in basic science research since he was 19.

He lives with two dogs and has three grown children. He has several works in various stages of development, both fiction and non-fiction.

About the Book

Released November 1, 2004 by Avar Press. Available at Amazon.com, Barnes & Noble, and fine booksellers both on & off-line via Ingram Book Group and Baker & Taylor. Now in a second printing. Initial print run 1000.

- “A satirical science fiction allegory where the weather's mastered and the battle of the sexes has been settled for good.” *Wilmington Star-News*, March 20, 2005.
- “Crafted with genius symbolism. Can be read over and over again and is perfect for book club conversation.” John Weaver, *pageonelit.com*, April 11, 2007
- “A triumph expressing a crucial message for counter-culture and would-be world-transformers of all walks of life, from humanitarians and pacifists to feminists and libertarians.” Michael Dunford, *Midwest Book Review*, June 2007
- Included in the curriculum for Creative Writing at Indiana University.
- Subject of the Avar Press Literary Essay Scholarship Competitions, now in its third year for US & Canadian HS students. Over \$5000 has been awarded or pledged through 2008. Feasibility of a European competition is being assessed.



As the last testament of mankind, XEN recounts the tale of the 21st century misanthropic scientist who banished evil from the world, marking the end of hate and prejudice. The novel venerates the millions of human beings sacrificed in the protagonist's eugenics program through which he concluded that mankind was innately flawed and must be scrapped for a superior species empowered by women. It is satire and social commentary in the style of Mark Twain's *Letters from the Earth* as well as absurdist and iconoclastic like Tom Robbins' *Another Roadside Attraction*.

Part of the permanent Utopia collection at Penn State libraries and the permanent collection at University of North Carolina, Wilmington

XEN is not recommended for readers under the age of 16.

Reader's guide to XEN

XEN is the story of a misanthropic scientist who rids the world of evil.

But it is also:

1. A whimsical myth about a bet between Wind and Water over the fate of mankind and Earth herself.
2. A eugenics program that breeds out our xenophobia, ridding the world of hate & prejudice.
3. A catalog of all the atrocities and depravity of Mankind.
4. An allegory where the battle of the sexes is settled once and for all.
5. A proof that mankind is innately flawed and cannot be fixed; he must be scrapped for a superior species that is empowered by women.
6. The last testament of Mankind.
7. A tribute to the robustness but persistent vagaries of the English language.
8. An acceptance of the difficulty in pinning anything down, since (most) everything is relative.
9. How fire got banned from Earth.
10. How vegetarianism triumphed and animals came no longer to be exploited for food and raw materials, or in any other fashion.
11. An exercise in absurdly esoteric language, laid low by strong language and outright vulgarity.
12. About the power of first thoughts and the difficulty in suppressing them.
13. A first contact with extraterrestrial life capable of interstellar travel, but in reverse.
14. A story about good versus evil.
15. A future perfect Utopia on Earth.
16. A personal call to action to cultivate kindness in our hearts and treat others as we would like to be treated.
17. A question, do the ends justify the means?

What Readers Are Saying about XEN

“By using second person, Solomon is forcing the reader to personalize the horrific things happening all over everyday, and realize that it could happen to anybody, even them, and that an attempt to change the status quo is workable.” Kate Burgers, Shawnee Mission East High School, Shawnee Mission, KS

“By making the reader think from different perspectives in Xen: Ancient English Edition, D.J. Solomon does something much greater than drawing a reader into his novel: he gives them the ability to think about events in the real world from many possible vantage points.” Kate Burgers, Shawnee Mission East HS, Shawnee Mission, KS

“It’s hard to imagine a place more perfect than the Utopia described in Xen. Here is a world with no need for money, where people live for 300 years but never look older than 20, where animals are loved and respected, bugs are banished, all people are vegetarians, women are the dominant gender, and everyone drinks soda pop! If it takes eugenics to evolve into that world where ‘there is tolerance and enlightenment at all levels,’ then Hitler be damned, we need to take a closer look.” Teresa Ristow, South Fork High School, Miranda, CA

“D.J. Solomon is a master of lexical semantics, lending credibility to the illusion that this novel is a translation into an Ancient English language that is no longer spoken.” Teresa Ristow, South Fork HS, Miranda, CA

“If history teachers and students across America were required to read Solomon’s book, it could be a new beginning for us all (and a while lot of fun!)” Teresa Ristow, South Fork HS, Miranda, CA

“Before, literature only speculated *how* the world can reach utopia, but now we wonder *if* humans will ever (r)each it.” Summer Li, Mercy High School, San Francisco, CA

“Through graphic imagery and an innovative point-of-view, Solomon points out man’s inhumanity to man in a memorable allegory depicting human’s future.” Casey Archer, Princess Anne HS, Virginia Beach, VA

“In a highly imaginative and well-written science-fiction novel on the future, Solomon manages to criticize violence and its role it played in the history of humanity.” Casey Archer, Princess Anne HS, Virginia Beach, VA

“Xen: A Novel from the Future, written by D.J. Solomon, is exceptional for its use of higher-level vocabulary words and writing conventions in order to convey the complexity of the English language.” Erin Nemeth, North Royalton HS, North Royalton, OH

“[Solomon] showed us that yes, the world is flawed, and yes there is a lot wrong, but he also showed us that we are each capable of making it better. For that we owe him thanks.” Nichole Norling, homeschooler, St. Louis, MI

Study Guide for Educators

1. In Teresa Ristow's thoughtful essay, she lamented on the lack of clarification of the two Rules in *Xen's* future Utopia. "Everyone will be reasonably reasonable, there now being only two basic rules; these will cover every situation." To be fair, one of the author's children asked the same question after reading the manuscript! What are the two rules?
2. "Both religion and weapons were invented by man due to his fears: fear of the unknown and fear of other men. Apparently and unfortunately, even in the distant Utopian future of mankind according to Solomon, these fears will persist," Teresa Ristow wrote. Why might this have been the case in *Xen's* Utopia?
3. Nichole Norling wrote, "Pawkey is not that unlike Jesus on the cross." What other evidence might suggest that *Xen* is the "Last Testament of Mankind?"
4. In Erin Nemeth's essay on the use of English in *Xen*, she catalogued many contradictions. What other contradictions exist in the novel?
5. Contrast masculine versus feminine in *Xen*.
6. Casey Archer finely teased various motifs out of *Xen*. What other techniques, motifs, and use of metaphors are evident in *Xen*?
7. What is the role of sexuality in *Xen*?
8. Summer Li expressed concern about the absence of anger in *Xen's* Utopia. Distinguish anger from rage as well as evidence that anger per se still exists in the future Utopia.
9. Pawkey Seneschal "has no respect for the institution of marriage," Teresa Ristow wrote. What evidence is there to support this claim as well as to refute it?
10. Teresa Ristow cleverly elucidated various meanings of the characters' names in *Xen*. What other options are there for these names?
11. What is the role of dogs in *Xen*?
12. Explain the cover art of the book.
13. Teresa Ristow questioned the utility of Book 3, Mother & Child in *Xen*. Why might the author have included it, ie what is its purpose?

14. What transformations occur in *Xen*?

15. Why is *Xen* a highly feminist work?

16. Summer Li suggested that in the future Utopia, "people still desire materialities, most likely more than they need to survive on...excessive consumption...Everyone may be guilty of greed or gluttony." Why might this not be the case?

17. Teresa Ristow questioned the lack of an explanation about where the abundant natural resources will come from to satisfy such a large population. What is the explanation given in *Xen*? More importantly, consider doing the math, which might make for a great class project or for book club members. That is, take each of these areas no longer present in the Utopia and come up with a realistic figure for each of their current costs, detailing exactly what these would include so terms are realistically defined, and then add them all up!

18. The Utopia of *Xen* is unique. What single aspect did you like the most or would prefer to enjoy now and why?

19. How does the Utopia of *Xen* fit into a world of Tao?

Xen: Ancient English Edition

By D.J. Solomon

November 1, 2004

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188 pages

Softcover

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