



A Senseless Act Of Beauty by John B. Rosenman

(An untouched, beautiful world – what could go wrong?)

Aaron Okonkwo, a Nigerian scientist, travels with a crew in the 24th century to evaluate Viridis, which proves to be a beautiful and fabulous world. There, Aaron discovers a strange, alien species and amazing machines and technology left in a vast underground complex by a mysterious race called the Creators.

Aaron soon falls under the irresistible, seductive spell of Nightsong, a green alien female with ominous and bewitching powers. However, an even greater danger rises. He will be forced to fight for the planet's survival against a ruthless invasion of many ships to conquer and enslave the planet – just as Africa itself was once enslaved.

Aaron knows it's A Senseless Act of Beauty to try to reclaim his ancient warrior heritage and fight back against such overwhelming odds, but he knows he must try.

Book Excerpt from A Senseless Act of Beauty:

Aaron loves Nightsong, the beautiful alien girl, but can he trust her?

Whatever the case, the deadly plants remained just as obediently in place behind as they did ahead. However, he couldn't forget what had happened to the Egyptians who dared to follow the Hebrews across the Red Sea.

Walking beside Nightsong, Aaron no longer felt like the brave warrior he had claimed to be. Though he loved her, he recalled suddenly all the suspicious things she had said and done. Perhaps he had been foolish to enter the briars with her. This could be a trap, and he the prey.

He stopped and turned, debated going back. But as he hesitated, Nightsong drew swiftly ahead. No! Better to follow her and stay close.

He raced after her, quickly catching up.

Finally they reached a circular clearing. Serene and confident, Nightsong led him to its center, where she gazed up into his eyes.

“You are the first of your people to see this,” she said.

He looked around, nervously seeing only the briars surrounding him like an impenetrable wall, or an enemy ready to spring. The briars seemed to be growing, rising.

Review by Daz Pulsford

5.0 out of 5 Stars

A powerful tale of love and wonder

July 11, 2011

Format: Kindle Edition

“Cleverly mixing some traditional sci-fi elements: an alien planet ripe for conquest, an arrogant and rapacious paternalistic invader, indigenous humanoids who cause fascination and wonder, and mysterious technological forefathers, *A Senseless Act of Beauty* also includes tales from the African Mythos of our future past, and more than a dash of love and heartbreak as it weaves a tale of hope, the surrender to love, and a quest for understanding.

It is the central character Aaron's journey of self-belief and understanding his place in things that sets up the story, and around it we see the story change from his view as a visiting scientist to a fierce protector of the planet Viridis. Beginning with a defining moment of his youth that shapes his future instincts, the author takes you through Aaron's transformations as he learns to love, grieve, love again, and ultimately triumph over the very forces of mindless subjugation and assimilation of which he was initially a part.

The native aliens of Viridis also undergo a distinct journey. Although physically and psychologically far more evolved than humans, they are emotionally stunted, naïve and split along gender lines - believing their omnipotent Creators to have deserted them as a failed experiment and doomed to extinction due to the overbearing mental dominance of the females over the repressed males.

In Aaron they see their saviour, and as with the other males of his crew, he is coerced into gifting reproduction to his mate, Nightsong. What follows is a bizarre evolutionary rollercoaster at high speed as Aaron and the aliens try to leap the gap in fertility, causing distress and anger amongst both Aaron and his former Captain and their offspring.

Woven into the love and heartbreak of these genetic problems is the discovery of the Creators machines below the ground and their array of awesome and terrifying powers - all of which lead to Aaron realising his potential (as bound and retold in the stories of his native heritage) and destiny as guardian of Viridis against the returning, now warlike Humans who want to carve up the planet for its riches. A final conflict brings a neat fulfilment to the story and leaves room for glimpses of what might yet be.

Rich with astonishing sights and sounds, primal fears and advanced technology, the simplicity of love and faith and the ugly faces of envy, greed and mistrust - this book is a magical tale that will have you hanging on right to the end.”

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Customer Reviews:

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About John B. Rosenman: When John was a kid, a family friend gave him a subscription to Amazing Stories and fired up his imagination. Later he was infected by EC comics, Ray Bradbury, and terrifying SF movies like The War of the Worlds, Them!, and The Thing. As the imaginative twig is bent, so grows the literary tree.

In time, John received his Ph.D. in English from Kent State University. As an English professor at Norfolk State University, he designed and taught a course in how to write Science fiction and Fantasy. He is a former Chairman of the Board of the Horror Writers Association and the previous editor of The Rhetorician and Horror Magazine. Altogether, he has published 300 stories in places such as Weird Tales, Whitley Strieber's Aliens, Fangoria, Galaxy, The Age of Wonders, and the Hot Blood anthology series.

His two dozen books include SF action-adventure novels such as his Inspector of the Cross series (MuseItUp Publishing); Beyond Those Distant Stars, winner of AllBooks Review Editor's Choice Award, and Speaker of the Shakk (Mundania Press); and A Senseless Act of Beauty and Alien Dreams (Crossroad Press). The Merry-Go-Round Man, a young adult, coming-of-age novel is also available from Crossroad Press. One of his stories, "The Blue of Her Hair, the Gold of Her Eyes," won Preditors and Editors Annual Reader Poll for short SF/F.

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