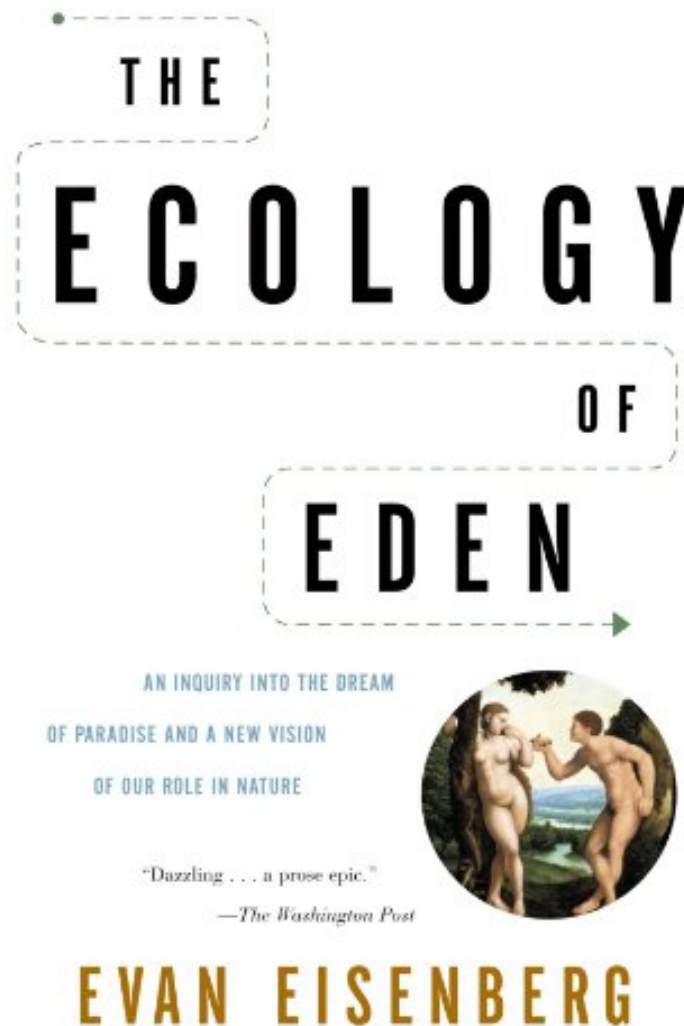


(Online library) The Ecology of Eden: An Inquiry into the Dream of Paradise and a New Vision of Our Role in Nature

The Ecology of Eden: An Inquiry into the Dream of Paradise and a New Vision of Our Role in Nature

Evan Eisenberg

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Evan Eisenberg : The Ecology of Eden: An Inquiry into the Dream of Paradise and a New Vision of Our Role in Nature before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Ecology of Eden: An Inquiry into the Dream of Paradise and a New Vision of Our Role in Nature:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Perfectly fine. By NL Customer Arrived in good shape. Just what I wanted. 2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. The Ecology of Eden By Sam Adams As Eisenberg writes: "The book has four parts. The first describes, in biological terms, the waves of change that have swept the planet at narrowing intervals over the past few million years. The second recounts some of the myths people have shored up against those waves, mainly in the ancient Near East, and asks what ecological facts the myths reflect, cover up, or help create. Part Three chases this inquiry across the whole length of Western history and a good stretch of our mental landscape, from pastoral verse to housing developments and from gardens to the Gaia hypothesis. Part Four, finally, applies the lessons of this journey to the problems of the present hour." (xvii) He is not in a hurry and he favors figurative prose. Combined, this handicaps an otherwise interesting look at humankind's symbiosis with non-human nature and the influential notion of a long-lost Eden, under whatever name and form it might be imagined. The book is densely written and founded on broad research, and the writing is well-controlled within its lengthy stylistic boundaries (although the boundaries of relevance are sometimes breached); but because of the density, the verbosity, and the figurative language, the discussion is not always clear, often seeming to hover in the realm of metaphor without any sure, grounded meaning. Overall, less would have been better. At least the chapters are short. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A challenging masterpiece By A. Foljambe First of all, I'm not somebody who hands out five stars like Halloween candy, and I'm constantly amazed at the mediocre books on with reams of five star reviews. It's embarrassing. I say that so that perhaps you'll take my five star review of this book seriously. If you're looking for a distraction, or a way to pass the time, avoid this book. It's challenging, and it takes a long time to get through it. It's time well spent. Eisenberg's erudition shows up on every page, and unlike so many writers of environmentally themed books, he has the breadth of knowledge to place his subject into a larger context. The theme of humanity's impossible search for a balance between nature and culture introduces the reader to the idea of Arcadia, an important cultural theme that has been neglected by the mainstream for many years (it was much more widely known and discussed in the nineteenth century). Eisenberg also presents this idea as an ongoing interaction between the Mountain and the Tower, representing wilderness and culture. The book includes a very useful bibliography for researchers and people who want to learn more about particular subjects. Any book that can range from the epic of Gilgamesh to the music of Duke Ellington is worth a read, in my opinion.

"Dazzling . . . a prose epic." --The Washington Post A mountain peak, a rolling pasture, a boulevard alive with sound and light--each of us carries, deep inside, a dream of paradise. In this magisterial contribution to the literature of ecology and the environment, our nostalgia for the myth of paradise--the primeval, self-sufficient, nurturing garden where mankind was born--is the starting point of a brilliant inquiry into what our place in Nature has been and ought to be. Writing in lively, imaginative prose and drawing deftly upon disciplines as varied as biology, geology, anthropology, history, physics, and music, Evan Eisenberg examines the ways in which people have envisioned and tried to re-create the earthly paradise even as they have dealt with the often disastrous effects of their increasing manipulation of the environment. An encyclopedic survey of efforts to heal the dangerous rift between culture and nature, *The Ecology of Eden* is a landmark work that is enormously suggestive, informative, and a joy to read. "It's a question many writers have tackled, from Paul Ehrlich to E. O. Wilson: How can we survive while population grows, resources dwindle . . . and the threat of global climate change looms ominously? Few have explored it with more originality or historic sweep. . . . A rich harvest, filled with many kernels of wisdom about the future of our elusive Eden." --San Francisco Chronicle "An ambitious, thickly braided narrative that makes the clearest bid to nudge the dialectic along. . . . Eisenberg traces the story engagingly, energetically, with a remarkable breadth of learning and a metaphor-maker's eye. . . . A vision of substance and genuine insight." -Los Angeles Times Book Review

"The Ecology of Eden is no ordinary book; it is, in fact, something of a masterwork." - The Globe and Mail "Ambitious--a broad rumination on the fragile state of the earth's natural environment and what might be done to protect it." - The New York Times Book "Eisenberg presents a rich store of information --with dazzling wit and impressive learning." - Washington Post Book World "It's a question many writers have tackled, from Paul Ehrlich to E.O. Wilson: How can we survive while population grows, resources dwindle--Few have explored it with more originality or historic sweep--A rich harvest, filled with many kernels of wisdom about the future of our elusive Eden." - San Francisco Chronicle From the Inside Flap "Dazzling . . . a prose epic." --"The Washington Post A mountain peak, a rolling pasture, a boulevard alive with sound and light--each of us carries, deep inside, a dream of paradise. In this magisterial contribution to the literature of ecology and the environment, our nostalgia for the myth of paradise--the primeval, self-sufficient, nurturing garden where mankind was born--is the starting point of a brilliant inquiry into what our place in Nature has been and ought to be. Writing in lively, imaginative prose and drawing deftly upon disciplines as varied as biology, geology, anthropology, history, physics, and music, Evan Eisenberg examines the ways in which people have envisioned and tried to re-create the earthly paradise even as they have dealt with the often disastrous effects of their increasing manipulation of the environment. An encyclopedic survey of efforts to heal the dangerous rift between culture and nature, *The Ecology of Eden* is a landmark work that is enormously suggestive,

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