



# A REVIEW OF *EVE*

BY WM. PAUL YOUNG  
AUTHOR OF *THE SHACK*

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## Reviewed by Kate Burch

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When “John the Collector” finds Lilly, barely alive, inside the walls of a shipping container that has been washed ashore on his island-between-worlds, he doesn’t realize how long her recovery will take. Or that discovering her and taking her home with him will make him a “Finder.” Or that she will attract attention from beyond his world. Or that she will have insight into the beginning. Or that she will be chosen and connected to every known human race.

Wm. Paul Young, author of *The Shack*, builds another rich and imaginative space in *Eve* that questions our conceptions of God, of ourselves, and of the beginning. The novel parallels the rebirth and healing of Lilly from past traumas, with Mother Eve as her guide, and the first birth of creation in Genesis. Through these two stories, Young challenges the reader to let go of preconceived notions, pat answers, and stale imagery of “in the beginning...”

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Building on his unique conception of the Triune God in *The Shack*, Young offers fascinating new images of Eve, Mary, and the Bride of Christ, and the way male and female come together in the mystery of God. Young is not afraid to emphasize these mysteries nor does he shy away from imagining the physical realities of experiencing the breath of God, walking with God in paradise, or living with God face-to-face. One of the most striking moments of the novel comes when “the Scholar” asks Lilly what she would *neverthink* if she was standing face-to-face with someone, and she replies, “I would never imagine that I was alone.”

Young is a powerful writer. *Eve* includes bold images and strikingly new metaphors that demand attention and question one-dimensional understandings of original sin, the role of Eve, and the relationship between humans and God. For readers raised in the church, it is a refreshing look at a simple and beautiful part of Scripture that brings out the excitement, hope, and love present in the creation story.

*Eve* reimagines the effect of temptation on both Adam and Eve, and fully fleshes out the idea of sin as being apart from God. His retelling of the story is a helpful counterpoint to theological perspectives eager to place blame on Eve, Adam, and the snake, in turn. The novel helps readers to reexamine their own assumptions.

Young offers a perspective that makes both Adam's and Eve's struggles fully believable and easily recognizable in the reader's own life. Instead of accusations, Young emphasizes the depths of sadness and love in the relationship between God and humanity.

The novel can be confusing at times, and adds new characters and ideas at a dizzying rate. Some of Young's metaphors may be a bit too obscure, but the entirety of the novel presents a glowing image of God's desire for healing and rebirth. Whether a reader is just beginning to walk with God or has found their life-long faith growing dull, this novel illuminates the spaces between the text of Genesis in a way that helps readers examine their own relationships with God. It asks Christians to imagine bigger and dream bolder about the power of God to create new life, both physical and spiritual, and to always return to the love and presence of God.

*Disclaimer: This is a work of fiction and as such, the author does reimagine and interpret the biblical text from his own perspective.*

*This book is available at [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). [Buy it now.](#)*