

On Life and Meaning

MARK PERES

Episode 3 – Jeff Jackson – Strange and Wonderful Bodies

We Are Always Emerging

And now a personal word,

The dark coming of age stories that Jeff Jackson writes about remind me that we are always emerging. Our cells are replicating. Our bodies are adapting. Nature is selecting. In 2008, in an essay entitled “Art Therapy” in *Charlotte Viewpoint*, I wrote:

We live in this interregnum in history, this period between text and screen. We are in the final days of manipulated words, chapters, indices, and endnotes, [rushing] headlong into an ubiquity of pixels and visual vocabulary. We are birthing a touchscreen world where every surface will be animated with electronic images, subject to our fingertips as we pull and squeeze and stretch whatever our minds can map into weather reports. We are all creators now—Adam and God on the Sistine Chapel, in their dance of will, forming the universe with all that Genesis promises and warns.

Jeff’s novels are prophetic warnings of cities on the edge of destruction, of music that redeems, of dreams and nightmares and alternative endings. We are always forming ourselves. We are always coming of age.

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