

*Dark Eden* (2M, 2W)

By Chad Pentler

The old man in the sky has not spoken to Darren in a very long time. This enrages Darren, though now the old man has asked Darren and his companion, Kay, for a big favor. They must get the children, Jacob and Silda, the last people on earth, out of a poisonous forest. The children believe they are brother and sister and so will not procreate. Kay convinces Darren to help her guide the children to a safe place where things can begin again. However, Darren takes the opportunity to settle a score with the old man. He cannot resist, and so he begins a plan to take Silda for himself. He tells Jacob, "I'm going to take her. Away." Darren convinces Kay to let him have some time with the children, specifically Silda.

Silda plants trees for the old man in the sky without knowing who he is; her trees come out a poisonous purple. Darren gets Silda to destroy her own trees. He then begins the seduction. "She's going to want me," he taunts Jacob. And she will.

Darren pokes a hole in Jacob's remaining self-confidence by trying to convince Jacob that the boy prevented other children from entering the forest that initially saved Jacob and Silda's lives. Jacob misses his opportunity to tell Silda how he feels about her. Silda now has Darren on the mind. Kay must teach Jacob how to procreate so he can compete with Darren.

Things between Darren and Silda escalate. Both of the new couples have sex. Afterwards, Darren is extremely disappointed to find Silda not pregnant, as he wants to put his stamp on the human race. Silda realizes she loves Jacob; she leaves Darren, but Darren fights back. Darren has lived thousands of years, and Kay has lived hundreds. These two are at the center of the question, 'Should the world begin again?'