



**Title:** *Genesis*

**Author:** Bernard Beckett

**Publisher:** Quercus

**Review:** Vanessa Finaughty

Post-apocalyptic worlds have been so overdone in literature that they don't appeal all that much to me. However, Bernard Beckett surprised me into enjoying *Genesis* tremendously, and I found his story quite refreshing. The story revolves around young Anaximander – or Anax – and a four-hour examination in front of a daunting panel of examiners.

Anax has applied to join the most powerful institution in the Republic, the Academy, and the novel clearly portrays her fear of failure; anyone who has ever had to take an exam will easily relate to her. Anax's subject of choice for the examination is the controversial story of Adam Forde – a man who broke the rules.

Some say Adam was a hero, while others proclaim him a fool. The historical accounts are too incomplete to be certain which view is correct.

*Genesis* is an easy read, and the story was interesting and thought provoking. Philosophy, ethics, and artificial intelligence are debated throughout the book, in an entertaining manner, and Beckett's writing style makes it easy to follow and understand.

I must add that the twist at the end was the most satisfying part of *Genesis*. It came as an entirely unexpected shock, but, in hindsight, it's really quite obvious. Most importantly, it made complete sense to me.

*Genesis* is marketed in some countries as an adult book, and in others as a young adult book. The layout lends itself more to young adults, while the subject matter may interest many older readers, particularly those who are interested in Plato's theories. I highly recommend this book to readers of all ages.