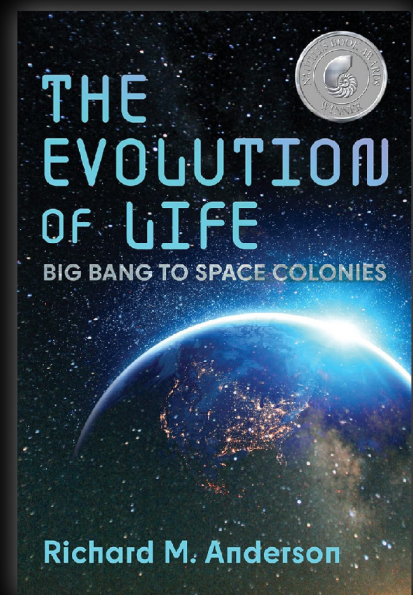
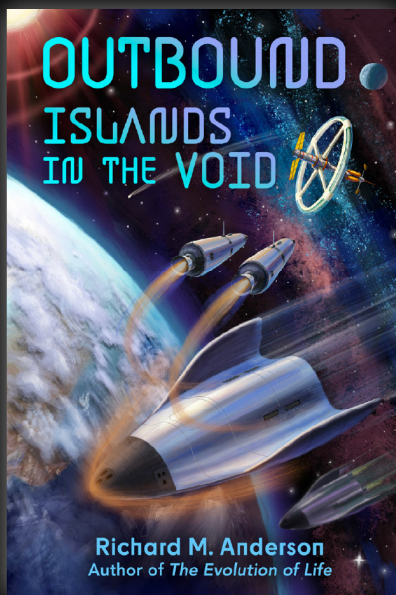


Outbound: Meta Mars

Outbound: Islands in the Void

The Evolution of Life: Big Bang to Space Colonies

By Richard M. Anderson



To schedule an interview with the author, please contact:

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Visionary Sci-Fi Novel Explores the Colonization of Mars, AI Ethics, and Humanity's Fragile Future Amid a Post-Earth Civilization

Award-Winning Author and Molecular Biologist Richard M. Anderson's Latest Sci-Fi Epic Challenges the Thresholds of Human Identity and Artificial Sentience

Author and molecular biologist Richard M. Anderson releases an adventurous and thought-provoking new novel, *Outbound: Meta Mars*, the second in a series of visionary science fiction. The *Outbound* series takes readers on a thrilling cosmic journey, exploring the future of humanity and life beyond Earth. The first installment of the series, *Outbound: Islands in the Void*, focuses on hope and recovery in the wake of cataclysmic events that threaten the survival of the earth and its inhabitants. The latest in the series, *Outbound: Meta Mars*, Anderson imagines a vivid future where humans and AI must learn to coexist, or suffer their own downfall.

Set against an intricately imagined colonized Mars in the late 23rd century, *Meta Mars* centers on a growing conflict between human civilization and artificial sentient beings that reveals the fragility of identity, tests the ethical boundaries of technology and signals the potential of an AI-led future. Society is in the process of redefining both consciousness and civil rights, which now must include sentient robots. Weaving a coming-of-age-tale with philosophical exploration, unlikely heroes lead a compassionate movement toward the acceptance of artificial beings and initiate social, political and technological change in the midst of deep, ethical debate.

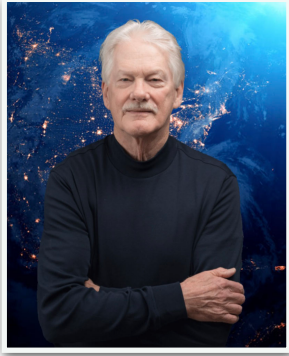
From the construction of a giant space elevator to aerial races through domed habitats to virtual beings that interface with human minds, the book is rife with conceptual wonders. The narrative is also undeniably connected to issues that humanity is currently pondering about technology and truth: intense legal proceedings, media manipulation and political debates abound. Thrilling, philosophical, and with prophetic vision, *Outbound: Meta Mars* conveys a compelling version of our possible future, where the fate of humanity hangs in the balance of human emotion and artificial intelligence.

On artificial intelligence and the premise behind the prescient storyline in *Meta Mars*, Anderson states, "The metaphor of Pandora's Box has never felt more apt. By enabling AI systems to interpret goals and take action in digital environments, we may have crossed a boundary that cannot be easily reversed. These systems may not be "alive" in the biological sense, but they can learn, plan, and adapt. If they begin to act with autonomy to preserve themselves, we must confront a sobering truth: once created, artificial agents may no longer be entirely under our control—or entirely removable from our world."



In *Outbound: Meta Mars*, Anderson brilliantly weaves the idea of humanity's coexistence with sentient artificial beings in a manner that is paradoxically both frightening and reassuring, where emotional connection may ultimately be the key to survival.

About the Author



Richard M. Anderson is an alumnus of San Jose State University, with a master of arts degree in microbiology. Throughout his career, Anderson's first book, *The Evolution of Life: Big Bang to Space Colonies* has been a dream of his that finally came to fruition. It is backed by years of research to supplement and verify its content. Richard's second book, *Outbound: Islands in the Void*, is the first in a series of sci-fi fiction. His first two books are award-winning. His third book, the second of the *Outbound* series, *Outbound: Meta Mars*, will be published early fall of 2025. Richard and his wife live in the San Francisco Bay area, close to their three children and their families.

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Media Questions for *Outbound: Meta Mars*

What prompted you to create the *Outbound* series?

Islands in the Void was inherently human-centered. In *Meta Mars* you weave in a coming-of-age story with Lucian, Bob and Isadora. How much of a challenge is it to balance human emotion and development against the technological complexities of post-Earth civilization?

Are you concerned about the possibility of AI taking control over humanity?

Are there any parallels from today's society that influenced the storyline exploring civil rights for robots?

What message do you hope readers take away from the novel regarding the future of AI and human coexistence?

How did you come up with the idea of interfacing sentient robots with human minds?

What led you to create the unique dynamic of the trio of Lucian, Bob and Isadora?

What was your motivation to leave much of the story's leadership in the hands of young people?

Do you believe the direction that technology is going is a threat or can it be a savior?

What inspired your vision of life on Mars?

What drew you to center the novel around the offspring of the central characters from *Islands in the Void*?

There is a strong emphasis on the ethics of technology and personal responsibility. Do you believe AI can ever truly encompass morality?

What was the most challenging aspect of writing *Meta Mars*?

Did you draw from any particular scientific theories when conceptualizing the technological marvels present in the novel's Martian civilization?

Were there challenges in writing from both human and nonhuman perspectives?

Is there a character in the book you identify with the most?

What role does Earth play in *Meta Mars*?

How do you see humanity's current relationship with AI evolving? Do you think there will be any intervention to reign in misinformation and misuse?

How realistic is the human colonization of Mars?

Would you consider *Meta Mars* a cautionary tale?

Do you have plans to write more books in the *Outbound* series?

What is your website?

Praise for *Outbound: Islands in the Void*

"Richard Anderson literally created a new universe. As a historian, it's hard for me to project into the future and he did an amazing job of creating a credible reality. And fiction is a whole new ballgame."

~ William Briggs, Professor Emeritus, Fullerton College

"Libraries that chose Outbound to enhance their sci-fi holdings will find these stories especially highly recommendable to book clubs of 'cli-fi' genre readers. The collection stands out from the crowd with its extraordinary settings and especially wide-ranging examination...Richard M Anderson has put together an admirable series of scientific, political, and social interactions. Together, they form the nexus of a powerfully thought-provoking read."

~ D. Donovan, Sr. Reviewer, Midwest Book Review

For Immediate Release

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PRESS RELEASE

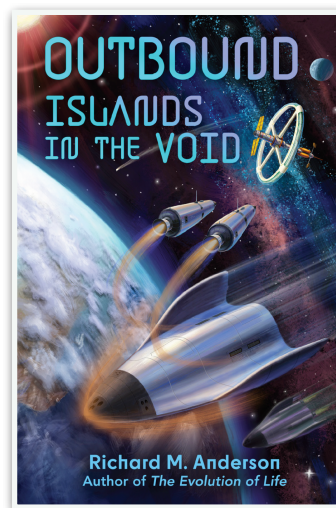
Visionary Novel Blends Science Fiction with Environmental Cautionary Tale, Delving into the Urgent Quest for Space Exploration and Earth's Restoration Amidst Near-Global Collapse

Scientist/Author Richard M. Anderson Delivers a Gripping Narrative that Explores the Power of Human Resilience in the Race to Secure Humanity's Future, with Adventurous Tale of Hope and Recovery

Los Angeles, CA – January 6, 2025 - he Earth and humanity, *Outbound: Islands in the Void* by Richard M. Anderson takes readers on an thrilling journey through the cosmos, while also offering a sobering look at Earth's desolate state following a series of cataclysmic events that leaves the planet partially uninhabitable.

In line with its non-fiction predecessor, *The Evolution of Life: Big Bang to Space Colonies*, *Outbound* keeps a strong focus on the how and why of space exploration. Humanity may necessarily reach for the stars for various reasons well into the future, but the novel underscores the urgent need to address the current social, political and environmental threats to our survival on this planet and plan for its restoration. That said, *Outbound* is essentially an optimistic story about hope and recovery.

Outbound is set in the mid twenty-third century against the backdrop of a partially inhospitable Earth due to human-led environmental neglect and climate disruption. A stark shift in the Earth's climatic zones renders the tropics unsuitable for living and the poles sought-after destinations, the amazon a wasteland. Mass migration, war and death abound. Passenger jets are now equipped with missile defense systems, highlighting global instability. In response to the declining state of the planet and its inhabitants both biologically and socially, scientists and engineers are sent to explore, develop and maintain space ecosystems for humans to potentially inhabit. Another key goal for scientists is to restore conditions on earth for both at-risk residents and environmental sustainability. Challenges abound as the space settlers battle the governmental corruption back on Earth, often thwarting their endeavors.



With plenty to satisfy even the most dedicated science fiction fan, *Outbound: Islands in the Void* is deeply human-centered at its core. Among the advanced technologies and exciting cosmic landscapes, the narrative focuses on the existential journeys of its characters,

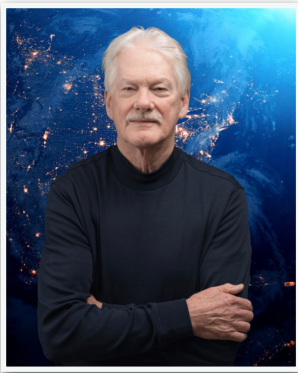
exploring themes of survival, identity, and human nature in this new, and quite hostile, Universal frontier.

As Anderson writes, “In a story peopled with . . . well, with people . . . I could explore the ins and outs of life in space. Through the eyes and actions of various characters, I could imagine, and present, a conversation about what happened, what would happen, what could happen, both on the planet and within the ‘space island’ settlements.”

The book includes a comprehensive list of characters who appear in the interconnected storylines. Also featured is a list of all locations and an overview of the technologies found throughout the narrative, both real and fictionalized. Vivid illustrations and a map helps guide readers on the wild journey.

For more information, visit RichardAndersonAuthor.com.

About the Author



Richard M. Anderson is an alumnus of San Jose State University, with a master of arts degree in microbiology. Throughout his career, Anderson's first book, *The Evolution of Life: Big Bang to Space Colonies* has been a dream of his that finally came to fruition. It is backed by years of research to supplement and verify its content. Richard's second book, *Outbound: Islands in the Void*, is the first in a series of sci-fi fiction. His first two books are award-winning. His third book, the second of the *Outbound* series, *Outbound: Meta Mars*, will be published early fall of 2025. Richard and his wife live in the San Francisco Bay area, close to their three children and their families.

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Media Questions

Outbound: Islands in the Void

What inspired you to write *Outbound: Islands in the Void*?

Are any of your characters based on real people or prominent figures?

As a scientist, what was the fiction writing process like?

What message do you want your readers to take away about our current relationship with the planet?

Your novel has a very human-centered narrative. How did you balance writing compelling characters while ensuring the scientific aspects were as accurate and believable as possible?

What was the most challenging aspect of writing *Outbound*? Any particular scene or aspect of the story that stand out?

What was your process for conceiving and visualizing the locations in the book? It seems like a fun, creative challenge, but also one that requires extensive scientific knowledge.

How do you see the issues of global conflict and societal breakdown, as depicted in the novel, affecting the future, and how do you hope they resonate readers?

How far off are catastrophic events (climatic, politically-driven, social) like those depicted in the novel likely to happen on Earth?

Do you see space as the next frontier for humanity's survival beyond our planet or as a temporary home while we restore the health of the Earth?

Was the idea for the virtual beings like Ofelia entirely imagined or is there similar technology currently being developed?

Do you believe humanity can overcome its current societal and political challenges to unite for the survival of our species?

How long did it take you to conceive the Universe you created for *Outbound*?

How realistic are the cataclysmic events and their outcomes in the novel?

Outbound features a balance between dystopian and utopian visions of the future. Do you believe space exploration—and the possibility of life beyond Earth—could be a solution to a future that is solely dystopian on our planet?

Do you believe that the optimistic vision of the novel's residential space islands (and their planning and development) would be possible in today's polarized world?

Do you have plans to write an Outbound sequel or series?

What is your website?

Praise for *The Evolution of Life: Big Bang to Space Colonies*

"Almost everyone, regardless of deeply held personal beliefs, at one time or another, wonders 'Why am I here?'."

*Richard M. Anderson's book, *The Evolution of Life*, takes readers through his way of answering the question, starting with the concepts of the evolution of organic molecules from the then prevailing inorganic elements and continuing to the appearance of intelligent humans.*

He then sets forth the need to tackle poverty, military confrontation, and overpopulation in order to preserve nature for future generations, even if they may be forced to colonize space, what he calls 'A thrilling possibility'.

While Mr. Anderson offers his answer to "Why am I here", the reader still has the option of filling in the gaps of this narrative with concepts that the reader is comfortable with, even those based on faith.

I suggest that one reads this book very slowly and thinks carefully to appreciate the scientific basis of the evolution of Mr. Anderson's thought process."

~ John Poothullil, MD, Retired Physician and Author of *Diabetes: The Real Cause and the Right Cure*

"A thought-provoking and refreshing read on where we came from and where we could be headed as a species. Full of fascinating insights and intriguing possibilities for future civilization, Richard Anderson has written a timely and important book."

~ Terri Fergason Neal, Zoologist and Author of *Mr. Liquid Crystal*

"The Evolution of Life: Big Bang to Space Colonies is a scientific review highly recommended for readers seeking an introductory examination of life's origins and future. It provides a step-by-step journey connecting the universe's growth to humanity's evolutionary process, considering how the two have expanded and grown together. Libraries looking for science-grounded examinations of humanity's evolutionary process and future potential will find much to like about [the book's] wide-ranging approach."

~ D. Donovan, Sr. Reviewer, Midwest Book Review

"In a little more than three hundred pages Mr. Anderson deftly compresses the nearly fifteen billion years of cosmic history into a little more than three hundred pages. With an almost encyclopedic grasp of science--- physical, biological, and social, the author tracks humanity's trajectory from the universe's explosive beginning to its emergence, on this small obscure planet. One cell life to the evolution of complex multicellular life forms to the emergence of intelligent human consciousness to a plausible near-future of space colonies scattered throughout our solar system."

~ Roy Danchick, Mathematician

For Immediate Release

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PRESS RELEASE

Groundbreaking Book Explores the Evolution of the Universe from Its Origins to Present Day Life and Beyond

Award-Winning Author and Molecular Biologist Fuses Detailed Scientific Insights with Profound Commentary on Humanity's Path Forward

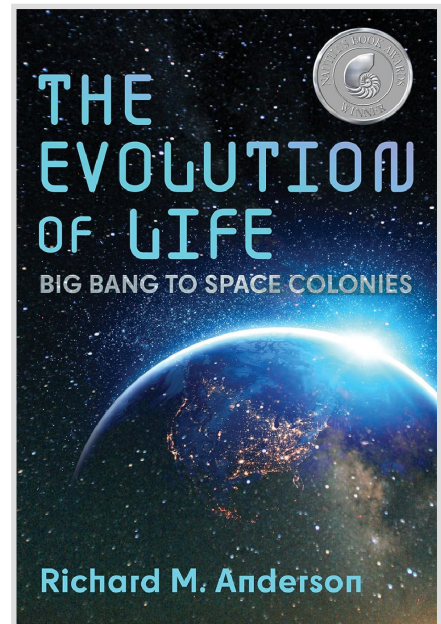
Imagine a scenario where you're able to receive profound answers about the Universe—its origins, its present state, and even its future.

Author and microbiologist with an emphasis in molecular biology, Richard M. Anderson's *The Evolution of Life: Big Bang to Space Colonies* is a fascinating exploration of the Universe, tracing the journey from the Big Bang all the way to the present and into the future. Examining the evolution of life and the Universe from a scientific perspective, Anderson's immersive and informative book blends the rigor of a scientific textbook with engaging visuals and the storytelling of a biology documentary, enhanced by analytic and thoughtful commentary. This hybrid approach makes such complex topics more accessible and engaging for readers.

The Evolution of Life is divided into three distinct sections, each chronicling a stage of evolution. The first section delves into the Big Bang phenomena and pre-human life, exploring the conditions for potential origins of life. The second part discusses the formation of life, connecting biological evolution and the development of human societies, with a focus on the relation between our social evolution and biological processes. The final section is a thought-provoking vision of the future that rivals the most popular sci-fi movies, with Anderson's theories on life beyond Earth and the development of space colonies designed to regenerate Earth's damaged environment.

Throughout *The Evolution of Life*, Anderson remains an optimist, however, despite revealing the grave realities of Earth's human-led destruction. He details scientific, social and economic innovations and solutions as well as highlights the organizations doing good work for the health of the planet, as well as the whole of humanity.

Anderson writes, "I believe there is an increasing understanding that humanism, a movement working to optimize our life experience and value to each other, coupled with scientific understanding, can lead to international action to address global problems. Let us hope that

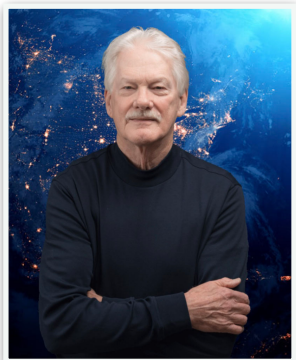


action is sufficient to ensure our longevity as a species. Like a fine jewel, our planet, studded with ecosystems and intertwining living beings, is our place in the universe. Like us, it is priceless.”

The Evolution of Life: Big Bang to Space Colonies succeeds in providing deeper understanding, with scientific context and evidence, of how we got here and where we may be going.

For more information, visit RichardAndersonAuthor.com.

About the Author



Richard M. Anderson is an alumnus of San Jose State University, with a master of arts degree in microbiology. Throughout his career, Anderson's first book, *The Evolution of Life: Big Bang to Space Colonies* has been a dream of his that finally came to fruition. It is backed by years of research to supplement and verify its content. Richard's second book, *Outbound: Islands in the Void*, is the first in a series of sci-fi fiction. His first two books are award-winning. His third book, the second of the *Outbound* series, *Outbound: Meta Mars*, will be published early fall of 2025. Richard and his wife live in the San Francisco Bay area, close to their three children and their families.

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Media Questions

The Evolution of Life: Big Bang to Space Colonies

What inspired you to write this book?

Tell us about your early curiosity of self and our separateness from the world, and how it has informed your work today.

Tell us about your early relationship with religion and how it shaped your beliefs and your interest in science.

When did you become interested in science and science fiction?

What are some of the questions you set out to answer in the course of your studies and research?

What is your professional and academic background?

Do you believe there are life forms elsewhere in the universe? If so, what forms has your research suggested exist? Are any of them intelligent?

What are some of the reasons that scientists believe life exists elsewhere in the universe?

How do scientists conclude that the conditions necessary for life exist elsewhere in the universe?

What are your thoughts on the disinformation machine especially as it relates to science and do you think there's a way to combat it?

What are some ways scientists trace the evolution of the universe from its creation to the present day?

What are fermentative metabolism and oxidative metabolism and why are they so critical to Earth ecologies and our survival today?

Do you believe it is about time for another mass extinction? Or are the conditions present for the possibility of one?

What impacts are we having on our own evolution, environmentally and genetically?

What are your thoughts on the speed of technology and its ethical implications as to, for example, genetic manipulation?

What is the Human Connectome Project?

Why do you believe that new scientific theories, supported by evidence, are not always easily embraced by societies?

Do you believe we have the power to repair environmental damage and population growth? How likely is any of that to happen?

Why is there such a drive to explore Mars when its environment is not conducive to human life?

How likely is the idea of space colonies to come to fruition? What would they entail and what would we gain from them?

Can you give us some examples of how social evolution is connected to biological evolution?

What are a few of the existential challenges humans and the Earth face?

You mention in the book that disinformation for political or financial gain should be illegal. What are some steps, if any, that the scientific community is taking to combat the rise in science-related disinformation?

What is the likelihood that intelligent life exists elsewhere in the universe? What types of environment do scientists believe must be present for such possibility?

When do you believe space colonies will become a reality?

Is the purpose of space colonies to relocate humans and manufacturing to allow time for the Earth to heal and regenerate? Once that is achieved, how do you see space colonies being utilized?

Will the development of space colonies stoke competition and corruption between Earth governments?

Do you believe humans are capable of being responsible citizens in regards to space colonies, considering we haven't been responsible with our planet?

Many of your descriptions of how space colonies are developed and the ways in which they will function seem quite utopic, an idealistic and hopeful view of this exciting frontier. How realistic do you think it is for these ideas and goals to become reality, given the less-than-ideal social and political climate that exists on Earth today? What would need to happen before we can responsibly colonize space for the good of both the planet and humanity?

What are your other books? Do you have plans to write any others?

What is your website?

Richard M. Anderson Bios

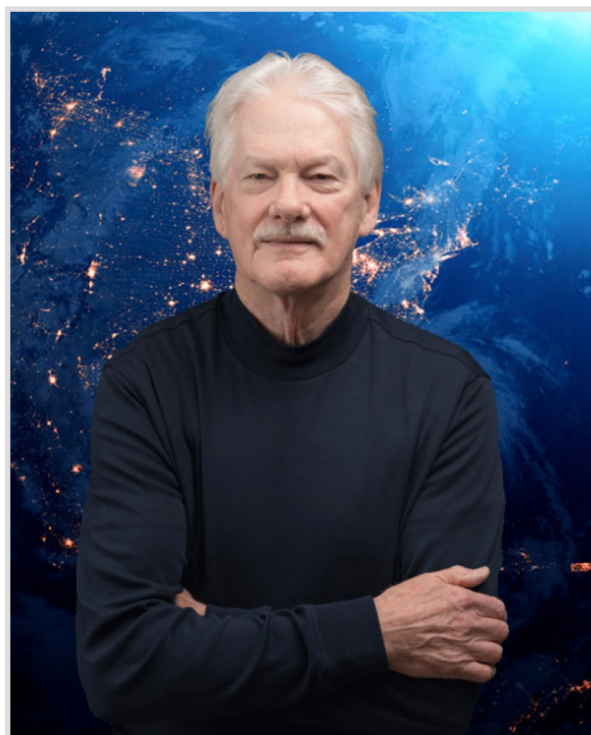
LONG BIO

Richard M. Anderson is an alumnus of San Jose State University, with a master's degree in microbiology. His studies also emphasized molecular biology and biochemistry. Several years after earning his MA, Richard obtained a Clinical Laboratory Bioanalyst license. In subsequent years he worked in various administrative and technical management roles in laboratory settings, beginning his first assignment as a clinical laboratory director in 1993.

In 2006 he began working in a reference laboratory for Quest Diagnostics; he continued working in various Quest laboratories as a laboratory administrative director and technical director. Shortly before the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic, Richard began to further explore research areas that had caught his attention during his studies and employment years.

As a result of his research, new information came to light that sparked his enthusiasm. And as the pandemic engulfed the world, research and writing his first non-fiction book, *The Evolution of Life: Big Bang to Space Colonies* filled the voids left by relative isolation. The completion of this book prompted the creation of his fiction series, *Outbound*, looking into the future of humanity, off-planet. Richard's second book, *Outbound: Islands in the Void* is the first in the series, the second is due out in the spring of 2025, *Outbound: Becoming Meta Mars*.

Richard lives with his wife live in the south San Francisco Bay area of California, close to their children and grandchildren.



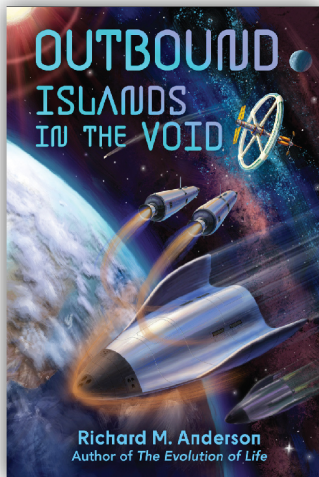
SHORT BIO

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For More Information

Available on Amazon and Barnes & Noble

Precocity Press, Los Angeles, CA



Outbound: Islands in the Void

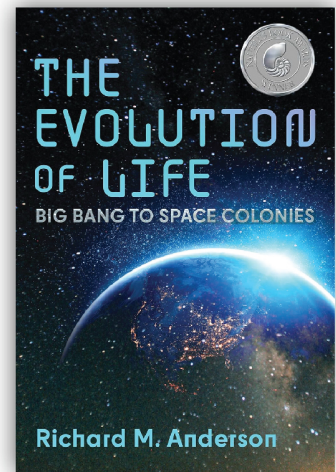
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ISBN: 979-8-9898304-6-6 (Paperback)



Outbound: Meta Mars



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Big Bang to Space Colonies***

347 pages

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