

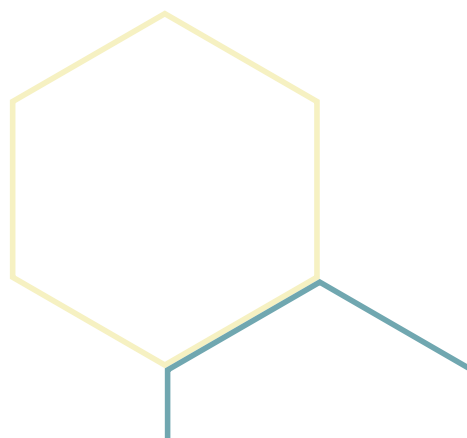




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Author Bio

George Moakley started his career studying biology, with dreams of doing field-work and ecosystem modeling. To make ends meet, he took a data entry position with a precious metals company. Throughout his long career in the tech industry, George gained an inside perspective on various scientific and business practices, including designing Edge Intelligence solutions and conducting strategic planning workshops. He owns several patents, and holds prestigious advisory positions with ASU's School of Business and UCI's Customer Experience Program.

A fan of science fiction since childhood, George remains fascinated by the hard sciences. He feeds his passion for nature through photography while traveling the world; he also regularly partakes in hiking and scuba diving. Such travels have brought great joy, but also great concern about the fragility of our ecosystems. He has witnessed devastation caused by climate change, invasive species, overfishing, and other environmental issues. George is a long time member of the Nature Conservancy; a meeting with a conservancy representative in 2019 inspired a strategic thought experiment, regarding how the twenty-first century is likely to play out. The results were sobering, but provided the real-life inspiration behind Kraken of Eden.

Today, George makes his home in sunny Arizona with his inspiration, Diana. Between them, they have seven kids. When he's not locked away writing, he loves to visit his children and grandchildren, and can often be spotting driving back and forth from various sports activities.

George with a sleeping cheetah
at the Cheetah Outreach in
Capetown, South Africa



About the Book

Staring into your eyes, savoring every moment as they eat you alive . . .

Earth is no longer home. Earth's ecology has been devastated, and her human inhabitants fled to the stars. After centuries of life on sterile space stations and under artificial domes, at last, a glimmer of hope is found by a distant star.

In the wake of a breath-taking discovery, Captain Lubandi leads her crew and passengers across the desolation of interstellar space to Eden, a pristine and wild planet. Is this planet humanity's chance at redemption? Or will humanity fall victim once again to the metaphorical snake in the garden? Survival depends on science, on unraveling the mystery of a hidden and horrific predator, before the monsters can breed and destroy Captain Lubandi's ship, her crew, and their second chance at a planetary home.



Testimonials

I read science fiction for two reasons: first to escape the mundane and boring and second to remind me of how much is unknown and to think beyond my own narrow environment. I enjoyed the Kraken of Eden primarily for the second reason. The story of human expansion to other systems and the discovery of alien life forms is based on solid science, and is very credible. Mr. Moakley's writing is vividly descriptive, particularly of the technology. I felt I could have drawn an accurate picture of the space ship and the colony platforms based on the detailed descriptions. The author's knowledge and extensive research of technology and life sciences is evident throughout. The book was both a reminder of our need to care for our own planet and of the vast possibilities of the cosmos.

In my experience working with George Moakley, he was well respected for his honesty and integrity. In short, people working with him knew without doubt he could be trusted. George leverages his scientific and technical knowledge and extensive research to create stories that gain his readers trust creating compelling stories that are scientifically and technically believable.

~ Lauren B.

George was always a creative and valuable contributor to the team. His expansive thought processes open up new ways of thinking for any problem set. I'm not surprised that he decided to become an author; his rich imagination, combined with his passion for language and technical accuracy, produces a compelling story that draws the readers in.

~ Maureen G.

This novel is unique in its exploration of biology. There are echoes of the Loa Loa, a parasite which chilled many medical students. But, the setting, descriptions are all due to George Moakley. He paints a vivid and exciting image of a world that I, as a diver and explorer, would love to inhabit! What a wild ride. A modern masterpiece.

~ Chris S.



Well thought out story line with fascinating cultural changes of what people are like in the future. The characters have a depth that is often missing in other books. The author's style of writing is also compelling. Already looking forward to the author's next book!

~ Gregg M. B.

George Moakley brings a unique combination of expertise and creative voice to the SF community. His training as a biologist informed his career as an IT architect and his passion for scuba diving. Carrying insights from each of those areas into his novels produces an engrossing read.

Kraken of Eden describes a unique (and terrifying) alternate biology on the first extraterrestrial planet discovered to have complex ecosystems. It's a thoroughly thought-out and vividly described world.

If you enjoyed *The Legacy of Heorot*, (Niven, Pournelle and Barnes), you'll enjoy reading *Kraken of Eden*.

~ Doug B.

I have known George as a scuba diver, a spectacular photographer, an unlimited resource of knowledge, and a friend for over five years now. He has always taken the time to truly get to know those that he spends time with, whether it is simply a five-minute interaction at the dive shop, or an hours long van ride to the middle of nowhere South Africa. One of my favorite things about George is that he always sees the very best in any situation that life throws at him. Whether it is getting lost in Japan (and then Singapore) on the way to Indonesia, or a careless van driver bouncing his super expensive cameras down the road, his ability to stay calm in the eyes of calamitous chaos always amazes me. It is because of this that he is one of my favorite people to travel the world with and someone I feel exceptionally grateful I get to call my friend.

~ Arlynn G.

Target Audience

This book is a “hard” science fiction, by which I mean everything was carefully researched and is consistent with our best understanding of the sciences. Sci-fi icons like Star Wars and Stark Trek are more “science fantasy,” full of technical jargon but unbothered by scientific implausibility. I’m not suggesting sci-fi fans won’t enjoy “The Kraken of Eden,” but the book offers qualities above and beyond what most audiences usually look for. I believe my book benefits from a level of realism that readers will appreciate, without the tedium or unfamiliar jargon that some can’t tolerate. The alien predators, the detail about their unique biology, and the scenes of vicious fights with the protagonists will appeal to both sci-fi audiences as well as horror audiences. Overall, I hope that readers will come away with a balance of appreciation about the challenges I faced writing this work, the challenges we face in discovery, and humanity’s strong potential to overcome danger and conserve the beauty that is Earth.



Book Excerpt

From “Day 4”

As the landing craft hovered centimeters above the ground, the forward hatch lowered, and George Sied walked down the ramp. He hesitated at the end, slowly extended his right foot, and became the first human to take a step on Eden. It felt wonderful.

Soft, gray, moist sand squelched softly beneath his boots as he walked away from the landing craft. He could hear gentle surf rolling in behind him. He looked to his left to see exquisitely blue waves breaking on the shore, foaming white as the waves crested and collapsed, turning gray as they rolled and churned the sand. As the surf receded, small, tiny mouths opened and closed in the settling sand as air bubbles surfaced and burst. Rare wisps of white clouds, stark against the spectacular blue skies, floated high above the surface of a deeper blue sea extending to a horizon accented by two of Eden’s moons. Sunlight sparkled on the light waves that textured the water near the shore. Further out, the smooth surface stretched like glass to the horizon.

He’d read about such things; he’d seen videos. He’d dreamed about what it would be like to experience them for himself. None of this prepared him for the sublime beauty, the magnificence, of this reality.

Throughout his life, his experience of true wilderness was limited to botanical and zoological parks bounded by their enclosing domes. It was unnerving to look outward, to see ‘wilderness’ extending to this horizon.

He desperately wished he could open his helmet to feel and smell the breeze. He wondered what it would feel like to remove his boots and walk out into the surf, to feel the ocean surge about his toes, to feel his feet sink into the sand as the water undermined them. To his right, the sand rose gently to a rocky crest that obscured whatever lay beyond, smooth and unspoiled save for debris abandoned

by the receding tsunami. He looked back as the rest of the landing party followed him. He saw his boot prints, and he was saddened by the first signs of human incursion on a virgin wilderness.

He heard Elke say, “we’re out of the landing craft. We should be ready to return in a few hours.” Through the environmental suit’s intercom, the landing craft pilot responded, “very good. I’ll be tracking the transponders in your suits and monitoring this signal. When you’re ready for pickup, please move to an open space and let me know.”

The landing party spread out as the landing craft moved gently upward, then accelerated forward and banked left over the open sea, increasing in altitude until it faded from view into an immense blue sky. The sun was a few degrees above the oceanic horizon, looking very much like depictions of Earthly mornings.

George thought that sky might be the prettiest thing he’d ever seen.

He sighed, then said, “Gwen and Hasani, let’s do a little reconnaissance. We’ll get more structured in our sampling later. For today, let’s just take whatever we come across.”

David came trudging up the beach through loose, dry sand, then crouched to inspect a rocky outcropping. He took a small hammer from his kit and broke off a sample. He stood, holding the sample in his fingertips against the sunlight. “Igneous, granite, quartz, mica, nothing exciting. Esteban, are you taking some sand samples?”

Esteban was standing in the surf, staring out at the horizon. He responded, “was planning to. George, you picked a beautiful spot.”

George smiled, “thank you.” He watched the waves lap at Estaban’s feet, and tried not to count the growing number of boot prints in the sand. “We can recreate a number of ecosystems in our zoological and botanical gardens, but we can’t recreate...this.” He paused, then continued, “this is where the tsunami hit a few days ago. Picture it: the water suddenly receding as far out as you can see, exposing the seabed, then a twenty-meter wall of ocean rushing inland.

The hand of God sweeping everything away up and down this coast, twenty kilometers inland.”

Dani, standing on the rocky crest above the sand, let out a low whistle. “Hard to imagine now! How often did you say these events occur?”

Sun interjected, “the drones monitoring the planet reported at least two or three off-shore quakes in a typical year, resulting in significant tsunamis wiping out a shoreline somewhere on the planet. There are also inland quakes and volcanic eruptions. It’s a dynamic world.”

Hasani added, “we’re expecting to find a significant number of organisms adapted to enduring and exploiting such disturbances.”

George started walking up the incline, noting that the dryer sand was more challenging to traverse. As he approached the crest, he could see rock outcroppings wiped clean. He looked back to see numerous large and small lumps of organic matter strewn across the beach, presumably stranded by the tsunami.

“George, take a look at this.” He turned and saw Gwen crouching by one of the lumps, examining it with a pair of forceps. It was a generally tubular shape, about twenty centimeters in length and about five centimeters in diameter, a silvery blue in color. “Seems to have some internal skeletal structure. I’m also guessing this is the front; this looks like a mouth but it’s the strangest mouth I’ve ever seen. There are...flaps of tissue on the body; they remind me of fins, so I’m guessing this was something that inhabited the water column like a fish.”

George crouched by her. “Looks small enough to take as a sample. Note that there’s nothing trying to eat it; I’m guessing the tsunami wiped away whatever life forms normally inhabit this beach area while stranding these... things on the shore. It’ll be interesting to see how quickly scavengers arrive.” He stood up. “For now, we’ll take advantage of the gifts the tsunami left us for some preliminary sampling of aquatic life forms. Once we dissect a few things, we’ll get more of a feel for Eden’s life forms and build a strategy. Look for plant equivalents.”

George stood and looked out across the sea. He slowly scanned the horizon, imagining, once again, the tsunami building and washing over the beach. He heard Hasani say, “I don’t see anything plant-like; I think it was all washed away.”

Cecilia walked inland, climbing a gentle incline of exposed rock. She reached the top and yelled back, “hey! You need to climb up here and look at this!”

George followed, and as he climbed, noted debris scattered as far as he could see. The slope increased in the distance and he could see dense foliage starting at what he presumed had been the high-water mark of the tsunami. “That looks like it might have been a plant equivalent’s trunk.”

Elke laughed over the intercom. “George, if we all promise to not forget this isn’t Earth, can we just say ‘plants’ and ‘animals’?”

George chortled, “sure, why not?” He walked over to the trunk and knelt, taking some tools out of his pack. It was too big to bring back intact today, but he could certainly take samples from it.



George photographing a
bull shark in South Africa



Sample Interview Questions

- Where did the idea for “Kraken of Eden” come from?
- You described the book as ‘hard’ science fiction. Tell us more about the science behind the story.
- You’ve had a long and varied career; how did that influence your writing?
- The kraken themselves are intriguing; what Earth creatures inspired them?
- Do you have favorite books or movies that influenced your writing?
- Elke Lubandi is a fascinating character. Is she based on anyone in particular?
- Are we done with Eden? Will the colonists have more adventures?
- Some of the locations on Eden are described in great detail. Are they based on experiences you’ve had in your travels?
- Talk about the technology depicted in the novel.



Story Ideas for Reporters

- Just how realistic is Eden? Could something like the kraken exist? Interview the author and some biologists about the biology of Eden, examples of Earth life forms similar to what's on Eden.
- The book references 21st century ecological crises: climate change, drought, pandemics, mass extinctions. How realistic are these predictions? What can and should we do about them?
- The characters in your book use science to understand, confront, and overcome the kraken. You were writing this as the COVID pandemic raged through the US. How would you compare and contrast the way the Eden colonists responded to the kraken versus the way the US responded to COVID?
- Discuss the way character diversity is handled in “Kraken of Eden”. Lead characters are female, characters are ethnically diverse, but diversity isn't a plot point. Diversity in this future society is just data and not relevant to the plot, their behavior, etc.
- Discuss life and technology in the 25th century. The book offers a detailed and realistic view of what life might be like in a few centuries as humanity spreads through the stars without faster than light travel. Review those depictions and how these future colonists use technology in their lives.

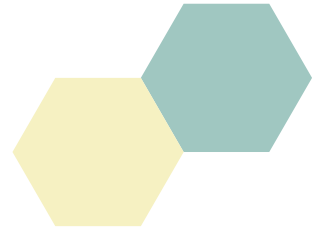
George on a
beach in Fiji



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GEORGE
MOAKLEY





Chaos is Opportunity

