

occurs at the same time that Earth's rotation suddenly and catastrophically begins to slow. This could signify climate change, adolescence itself or maybe it's just a great science fiction novel. It's so perfectly written that everything, it seems, becomes a metaphor for something else — and somehow Walker achieves this without allowing the story to be clunky or bogged down in the process.

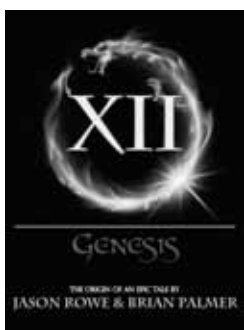
As Earth gradually and unpredictably slows, daylight and dark become longer, the environment suffers and, at least in the U.S., the populace splits between the mainstream “clock-timers,” who still follow a 24-hour schedule, and “real-timers,” outcasts who try to live in sync with Earth's new rotation. While humans' views on “day” and “night” evolve, so does Julia's perspective on friendship, her parents' marriage and what it means to be an outsider.

Fiction is magic because it so often gives readers a better understanding of the world without requiring us to leave our armchairs. It's rarer, though, that a book feels destined to teach us much about ourselves. — Shannon Finnell

■ XII: Genesis: The Origin Of An Epic Tale

By Jason Rowe and Brian Palmer. eBook. \$3.99.

Saving the world, but at what cost? Jason Rowe and EW freelancer Brian Palmer's fantasy novel set nearly 100 years in the future gives this task to 12 people who go on a quest to save New Earth from a superior evil only to stumble upon many roadblocks along the way. During this grippingly detailed adventure, the 12 develop relationships with each other, power through many hardships and even learn how to fly, among other supernatural abilities they uncover.



This first in an eight-part series delves into what stands in their way of defeating the enemy — much of New

Earth's population. As they attempt to rid all that haunts their grim world, a decision must be made by others who live in it: Trust these 12 who were recruited to bring peace or continue to see them as part of evil they are in fact trying to eliminate.

Who are these 12 people? What is this evil presence they are determined to erase? And why do so many who should side with them doubt their intent? Rowe and Palmer answer these questions with scenes full of suspense in an entangled plot that has twists and turns strewn throughout.

This eBook, all 352 pages of it, was released on Dec. 12, and one-third of its proceeds will be donated to India Partners, a nonprofit group that is working to free women and girls from sex trafficking in Mumbai. — Nick Poust

■ Dawn's Early Light

By Johnny Sundstrom. Xlibris, \$19.99.

It takes a bit of effort at first to get caught up in Deadwood author (that's Deadwood, Ore., not the TV series) Johnny Sundstrom's expansive novel of the West, but once you do, the web of landscape and characters is worth the work. Set in Wyoming, the novel kicks off in 1849 on the Oregon Trail, and leaping about in time and from family to family, it follows six linked generations of Wyoming dwellers ranging from cowboys to Native Americans to a present-day disgraced journalist.

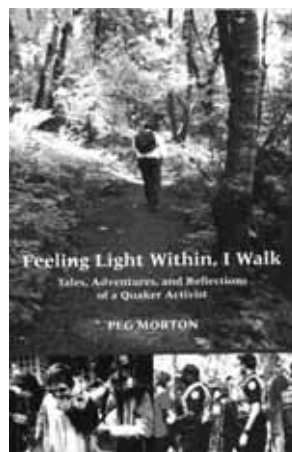
Sundstrom calls the first section of *Dawn's Early Light* “Shotgun” to emulate the purposefully random fashion with which the book begins. That shotgun pellet effect and the periodic interruptions by an unseen narrator stunt the flow of what is otherwise a fascinating well-wrought tale. *Dawn's Early Light* is self-published, but the writing and tale-telling is superior to most such works that don't get as much editing as novels do through a conventional press. *Dawn's Early Light* reminds me that it's a good thing people can publish on their own these days. This sprawling story of the West, the land and the people that love it, and each other, reflects Sundstrom's own knowledge of land, livestock and the environment; it deserves a glance from a larger press and a read. — Camilla Mortensen

nonfiction

■ Feeling Light Within, I Walk: Tales, Adventures and Reflections of a Quaker Activist

By Peg Morton. Cedar Row Press, \$15.

Eugene Quaker and activist Peg Morton's recently published memoir, *Feeling Light Within, I Walk: Tales, Adventures and Reflections of a Quaker Activist*, is an inspiring tale of her 80-plus years on the planet and her work on our nation's ongoing struggles with war, bigotry, class, corporate corruption and injustice. Morton has been smack in the middle of it, from the civil rights era to the Occupy movement.



This book also documents the history of social activism in Lane County since she arrived on the scene in 1989. She has worked with hundreds of people who are deeply involved in issues of social justice through local nonprofits, churches, other institutions and as individuals. She writes eloquently about many prominent local activists, some involved locally, others working in solidarity with the oppressed peoples of Central America.

EW has covered much of Morton's activism over the past two decades, including her time spent in federal prison for protesting the notorious School of the Americas. She has written for our opinion pages, and she appeared on our cover during the WTO protests in Seattle, in a Kurt Jensen photo showing her covering her nose and mouth after being exposed to tear gas.

This book is remarkable in that is we get to witness the evolution of her character. Her political work is shown to us within the context of her personal struggles: reconciling

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