

Excerpt – *The Everything Theory*

Dianne Gray

Luke looked up at Seira. She was talking passionately about ancient science again and he knew this was her way of burying her heart under so many layers of cold, hard, fact that even the greatest archaeologists in the world could never find it. It was at that moment he realised that he had done the same thing. When Murray bought the telescope he escaped into the night sky. The telescope filtered the reality of life and took him to a place far away from pain and sadness, a place above the troubles of the world, a place where anything was possible and life went on forever. They discovered the true orbit of the planet thinking they had uncovered a great secret, but now it seemed that ancient civilisations throughout the ages had been there long before them.

‘The ancients knew so much more than we do now,’ Seira was saying. ‘The Atra Hasis describes how a mother goddess went about creating earlier humans who were known as the LU.LU or the AD.AM.’

‘You see this all through historical writing,’ Robert backed her up. ‘Even the Bible, where *man was created because there was no man to work the ground.*’

‘Genetic engineering?’ Luke asked curiously.

‘Yes, far more advanced than it is now.’

Seira was still rummaging through the luggage. As Luke watched her he could see the same news story silently on the television behind her. He looked at Seymour again and wondered if his injuries were the result of a car accident and if it was his car that had been tampered with. He liked Seymour and wanted to get back to warn him as soon as possible about Brack.

‘She’s discovered another one,’ Robert beamed. ‘In Iraq.’

‘Another what?’ Luke asked vaguely.

Inhaling his excitement, Robert said, ‘another creation epic.’

‘Oh,’ Luke said, unaware of the importance of the find. ‘So this has something to do with Brack and the human brain?’

‘It has a lot to do with the human brain,’ Seira said as she pulled her notepad from her bag. ‘We think of these stories as myths, only because we’ve been told that for hundreds of years, but we’ve now gathered enough evidence to prove our ancestors knew about DNA and genetic engineering.’

Luke’s attention shifted in the direction of the cockpit where he could hear loud static and talking.

‘They’ve found us a chopper,’ Josh called out.

‘Ever flown in a helicopter, laddie?’

‘No,’ Luke said as he checked the medicine bag to make sure he had easy access to the packet of travel-sickness tablets Seira had handed him earlier. He knew they would be landing soon and, even

though he was tempted to take another one, he'd be needing it more when he boarded the chopper. 'But I want to know why you think the ancients knew about genetic engineering.'

Robert held up his arm as if showing off his muscles. 'Look at this, laddie,' he said pointing to his wrinkled elbow. 'See from my elbow to my wrist? Imagine this is the timeline of the primate. Then we get to the hand and see primates branching out to the fingers and then we get to the fingernails. See the end of my fingernail? The part that grows barely over the tip of my finger?'

Luke couldn't help notice the man's clean, manicured nails.

'That's how long *we are told* modern humans have been walking the Earth,' Robert indicated. 'Primates from the elbow to the fingernail. Then the sudden appearance of scientists, scholars and architects in that wee speck of time — out of the blue. But there's more to this than hands and brains.'

Clayton was reclining in his chair and Luke thought he was asleep until he said, 'Do you have to keep mentioning hands, my good man?'

Josh laughed loudly from the cockpit and Robert quickly apologised. Seira sat on the seat next to Luke. She was cradling the notepad to her chest as if it were her entire life. 'Several years ago I made a discovery in Iraq that was bigger than the Atra Hasis. In fact, it almost got me killed.'

'Another cylinder?'

'No, a clay tablet. I knew from the moment I saw it that it was similar, if not part of the Atra Hasis and it was still in one piece. I took a charcoal rubbing and then organised for it to be catalogued and removed. Well, it's a long story, but the tablet was removed and I don't know where. It just disappeared.'

Luke opened his mouth to ask why, but Robert held up his manicured hand like a stop sign and shook his finger as a warning not to go there.

'It was about that time I realised there was something happening with our information,' she said, 'but I wasn't sure what, so I did some investigation and found that, not only had several archaeologists died in mysterious circumstances over the previous months, but astronomers were dying at an alarming rate. I went to my father and he told me to deny any knowledge of the tablet. For the next few months I lay low and when asked about it I told people I had no idea what was on it because I hadn't had a chance to translate it before it was removed.'

'Why would your father tell you that?'

'Because he's either one of them, or they've threatened him,' Robert cautioned.

'One of who?' Luke shuddered, wondering who this mysterious group were who were trying to hide ancient knowledge and the true orbit of Eris.