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# EARTH FINALLY HEARS FROM SPACE

“You only live on land. Allow us to live in the seas.”

Rison will implode soon. They desperately need a new blue planet, a water planet. But Earth is crowded. Will humans be able to open their hearts to an alien race?

## ***SLEEPERS, Book 1***

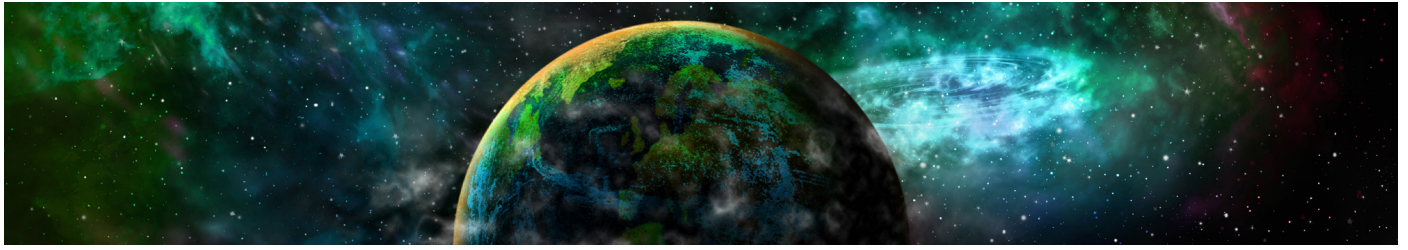
A rogue militia. A diabolical sabotage. Is an alien teen the only hope for either blue planet?

A test-tube baby, fifteen-year-old Jake Rose is half human and half alien; he has both lungs and gills.

He’s been raised on the “other blue planet,” Rison. However, in a horrifying science-gone-wrong scenario, Rison will soon implode. He evacuates to Earth to live with his human father’s parents on Bainbridge Island in Puget Sound. His mother, Dayexi Quad-de is Rison’s ambassador to Earth. She’s tasked with finding Risonians a new home on Earth in a peaceful manner.

Jake accidentally discovers that Earth’s elite ELLIS forces are trying to sabotage Mt. Rainier by starting an eruption so that they can blame it on the Risonian aliens. Working to thwart them, Jake suddenly realizes his mother—the ambassador—is missing.

*Sleepers* is the first novel in the action-packed science fiction *The Blue Planets World series*. This classic teen novel of finding your place in society combines with thrilling science fiction that delivers a punch. If you like the intrigue and excitement of *Ender’s Game* or *I Am Number Four*, you’ll love Darcy Pattison’s science fiction series of survival among the galaxies.



# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

## Science/History Related Questions

- The Arecibo Message was a 1974 radio broadcast into space that carried basic information about Earth and humanity. Learn more about the Arecibo Message and then discuss Earth's quest to find other intelligent life in the universe.
- What are Sleeper cells? Discuss the different times when sleeper cells might be operating: World War II, the Cold War, current day ISIS. Can you find any evidence of Japanese sleeper cells during World War II? Discuss how fears of sleeper cells prompted the Japanese and other internment camps.
- Listen to a copy of Orson Scott Well's radio broadcast of "*War of the Worlds*." Discuss why people believed the hoax. How would a person from Rison feel after listening to this broadcast?
- Review the science of volcanoes. What causes the most danger and loss of life during an eruption? (Lahars)
- In *Sleepers*, Darcy Pattison proposes a way to escape from a Black Hole. Discuss the TAG-GIMS, gravity, and black holes.
- Discuss drones. List ways that drones can be used. If possible, watch a demonstration of drones and their capabilities.

## Literary Related Questions

- Jake Rose has a complicated family. Discuss the problems of having a biological father who is human, and a step-father who is alien.
- Em Tullis is interested in her swim team career. Discuss how activities like this enrich a school career.
- Name an interesting fact you learned about the Seattle area, including Bainbridge Island, and Puget Sound. Study a map of the area. Why was this a good place to set this story?
- Read the opening chapter of Peter Benchley's *Jaws*. Compare that to the opening of *Sleepers*. Does Sleeper imitate the chapter or does it just refer to it? When you read *Sleepers'* opening, did it make you think of *Jaws*? If yes, did it add to your worry about Jake?
- Discuss how science is necessary for a science fiction story. Find places where the story explains a science concept, such as volcanology. Does it add to the story? If the explanation was removed, how would that affect the story?
- Which characters do you think will play a larger role in the remaining two books of the Blue Planets World series?
- Predict what you think will happen in the next book of the series. Who are the Phoke?