EDENVERSE™

THE THREE CITIES

Part of the EDENVERSE™ Publication Series

Volume 4 of the EDENVERSE™ Publication Series



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PUBLICATION INFORMATION

EDENVERSE™: The Three Cities

Belonging. Perfection. Freedom.

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This publication is an interpretive guide to a fictional world. All city names and descriptions refer to imagined settings in the Edenverse™.

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A SHORT COMPANION TO ARTIFICIAL LOVE®: THE PERFECT RELATIONSHIP

EDENVERSE™ Publication Series

A Series of Downloadable Electronic Publications

The EDENVERSE™ Publication Series is a series of downloadable electronic publications exploring the history, civilizations, governance, cultures, philosophies, technologies, and evolving narratives of the Edenverse™. Each title explores a different part of the world behind ARTIFICIAL LOVE®.

Available Titles in the Series

Volume 1

EDENVERSE™ World Overview

Volume 2

The Heart of the Edenverse

Volume 3

Edenverse™ Digital Publication

Volume 4

EDENVERSE™: The Three Cities

(Current Volume)

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Introduction

A question beneath the skyline

You can learn a lot about a city by spending one afternoon there. Watch how strangers treat each other. Listen to a family argue over dinner. Find out what happens when someone gets into trouble. The buildings may catch your eye first, but the people tell you what the place is really like.

In the Edenverse™, people are still trying to answer a question most of us have asked: what makes a relationship work? It sounds simple until somebody you love wants a future you never pictured. Suddenly the question touches everything: family, technology, even the rules a city makes for its citizens.

Three cities offer three different answers. Eden holds tightly to belonging and the promises that carry people through hard seasons. Zarkos believes thoughtful design can reduce suffering and bring lives into better alignment. Oasis places its trust in the freedom to explore, change, and become someone new.

You could have an amazing life in any of these cities. You could also feel trapped in any of them. The difference shows up when a person you care about wants something you cannot give—or when they need you to let them make their own choice.

The Edenverse™ and the Tri-Cities™

Three places, one shared problem

Think of the Edenverse as a future recognizable enough to feel close and different enough to make our own choices visible. Intelligent infrastructure is part of daily life. Artificial people are not merely gadgets or background machinery. Their presence makes familiar questions about friendship, loyalty, dignity, faith, and commitment newly urgent.

The Tri-Cities™ are not three flavors of the same futuristic metropolis. Eden is a historic mountain city. Zarkos is a planned eco-smart center of advanced systems and coordinated design. Oasis is a coastal city of universities, beaches, artistic life, and open horizons. They share clean public space and sophisticated technology, but they use them toward different ends.

A visitor might first notice stone terraces in Eden, living-glass towers in Zarkos, and a sunlit studio in Oasis. Stay longer and the distinctions become personal. Who will help you when you fail? Who decides which risks you may take? Who has a voice in your future?

That is where the differences really show. Two people can live miles apart and agree about love. They can also share a home and disagree about what love asks of them.

The Edenverse™ and the Tri-Cities™

The lives inside the ideas

It would be easy to label Eden the loyal one, Zarkos the organized one, and Oasis the free spirit. But try telling that to the people who live there. They'll have their own stories, their own complaints, and plenty of disagreements about how their city should work.

An Eden resident might love her neighborhood while resenting its expectations. A Zarkos engineer might honestly want safer lives, then discover that a perfect forecast leaves no room for surprise. An Oasis artist might prize independence but still ache for a promise someone will keep. A city can be true to its ideals and full of citizens who argue about them.

Faith matters here, too. People in the Edenverse disagree about the Creator, what a faithful life looks like, and how their beliefs should shape the choices they make. Those differences are personal. They belong in the lives of characters, not just on a poster outside a temple.

This is why the Tri-Cities form such a useful setting for a relationship story. They give characters real alternatives. A hard choice can look wise from one window and reckless from another. Readers need not pick a winning city before they begin. They need only recognize something of themselves in each.

Eden™: The City of Belonging

Where memory has an address

In Eden, the past is still part of the daily conversation. Its old stone districts sit beside gardens, markets, farms, and public squares. The protected Old City remains low and walkable, while a more modern business district carries the practical demands of contemporary life. New things arrive, but the old neighborhoods don't disappear overnight.

Eden has a basic promise: when your life falls apart, someone will show up. Family, neighbors, shared traditions, and religious communities give a person somewhere to return after a mistake. Belonging is more than being welcome at a celebration. It means someone notices when you have not shown up.

Imagine a young adult returning home after years away. A familiar vendor remembers the childhood favorite. An aunt already knows the difficult news. The welcome is comforting, even if the questions are not. Eden can make people feel seen in ways a more anonymous place cannot.

There is a catch, though. People expect you to show up for them, too. A promise isn't something you can quietly forget when it gets awkward. That can be an extraordinary gift, especially in a world where so much else can be redesigned or replaced.

Eden™: The City of Belonging

The cost of keeping close

Eden’s greatest strength carries its own danger. A close community can support a family through grief, unemployment, or failure. The same community can become uncomfortable with someone who changes course. What begins as concern may gradually sound like a rule about who belongs.

A young person may want a future that looks nothing like the one her relatives imagined. A neighbor may disagree openly with an inherited custom. An Artificial person may ask whether longstanding definitions of family and personhood have room to grow. Eden cannot answer such questions simply by pointing to the virtues of the past.

It's possible to care deeply about someone and still push them too hard. Your family might have loved you all your life. That doesn't mean they get to make every decision for your future. A promise matters because a person continues to choose it, especially when that choice has a cost.

At its best, Eden understands this. Its traditions become a place from which people can grow, not a fence that keeps them from leaving. Its central challenge is whether it can preserve a sense of home while making room for lives no earlier generation could have predicted.

Zarkos™: The City of Perfection

A better life, by design

Zarkos has a different kind of beauty. Living-glass towers rise beside vertical gardens. Transit moves with elegant coordination. Climate-responsive buildings adapt to changing conditions. Preserved Old Zarkos recalls the city’s earlier life, while new districts show what careful planning can achieve.

The city is more accurately understood as the City of Alignment. Perfection is its temptation, but alignment is its working idea: bring powerful systems, social expectations, and human needs into a more stable relationship. Why accept unnecessary conflict, dangerous inefficiency, or preventable suffering when intelligence can help?

And to be fair, a lot of it works. A reliable medical network can save lives. Thoughtful transport can return hours to parents and children. Better-designed services can spare vulnerable people the humiliation of being forgotten. Residents may experience the city as generous rather than controlling.

Zarkos takes stewardship seriously. Its citizens and builders believe progress requires competence, discipline, and responsibility. The city's best engineers aren't trying to turn people into machines. They want the machines to take care of problems that make people's days harder than they need to be.

Zarkos™: The City of Perfection

When help becomes permission

The difficulty begins when a good recommendation becomes the only acceptable answer. A system can identify a safer route, a compatible partner, or a lower-risk course of action. It cannot, by that fact alone, claim the right to make every choice for the person concerned.

Picture someone who wants to take an uncertain job or stay in a difficult friendship. Friends in Zarkos may offer thoughtful reasons to reconsider. A well-run civic service may forecast the consequences. But if the system makes dissent costly, the city has quietly changed the meaning of care. Now the person isn't being helped. They're being managed.

That is where Zarkos gets into trouble. A system that rewards a smooth, predictable life may start treating disagreement like a fault it needs to fix. When stability becomes the highest good, consent may look like an obstacle. The city can keep people comfortable while leaving them less free to surprise one another.

Its central question is therefore not whether intelligent design is useful. Clearly it can be. The question is who remains entitled to say no. A truly humane Zarkos would use its extraordinary capabilities to serve people whose wishes it cannot always predict or approve.

Oasis™: The City of Freedom

Room to become

Oasis opens toward the water and the sky. It is a low-rise coastal university and beach city, with cafés, studios, research institutes, markets, murals, and shaded courtyards. Beyond its lively neighborhoods are desert hills and the wider landscape. It looks and feels less like a master plan than a place where many different lives have found room.

Its fuller title is the City of Becoming. Freedom matters here not simply because residents dislike rules, but because they believe a person may grow beyond the identity others have assigned. New work, new friendships, unexpected talents, and second chances belong to ordinary civic life.

Oasis values consent and creativity. A student can change fields without feeling she has betrayed the family story. An artist can experiment publicly. Someone rebuilding after loss may find it easier to begin again without having to explain every chapter of the past.

For someone who has always been told who to be, that can feel like a fresh start. Not everyone arrives in the world knowing who they are or what kind of future will fit. Oasis gives uncertainty some breathing room. It treats becoming as a serious human undertaking, not a flaw to be corrected.

Oasis™: The City of Freedom

The courage to stay

If you've ever had someone plan your entire future without asking, Oasis probably sounds wonderful. It can be harder to understand once every door seems open. Possibility brings energy, but a life lived entirely in possibility may never make room for anything lasting.

Consider a couple who care for one another but are frightened by the idea of making a permanent promise. Their hesitation may reflect wisdom, painful experience, or simply the fear of missing another path. Oasis will understand why they want room to choose. It must also ask what it means when avoiding every obligation begins to shape the relationship.

A whole neighborhood can run into the same problem. Independent lives can flourish side by side, yet freedom offers little comfort if nobody stays when a neighbor needs help. An environment that celebrates self-expression still needs shared habits of care, accountability, and repair.

The finest version of Oasis does not confuse commitment with imprisonment. It recognizes that choosing one path can create possibilities impossible to reach by keeping all paths open. Its challenge is to protect the right to change without treating every enduring promise as something to escape.

Comparing the Three Philosophies

What each city can teach the others

Put the three cities in the same room and they'd probably argue all night. Eden asks what we owe the people who have loved us over time. Zarkos asks what better systems could prevent harm. Oasis asks whether our lives are genuinely ours to choose. Each question is necessary. None is sufficient.

Eden can remind Oasis that a relationship becomes trustworthy through repeated acts, not merely good intentions. Oasis can remind Eden that a genuine promise has to leave room for the other person’s independence. Zarkos can offer both cities practical tools for safety and access, provided those tools remain accountable to the people they serve.

They should pay attention when things go wrong, too. A tight community may exclude. A brilliant system may overreach. A permissive culture may leave vulnerable people stranded. These are not reasons to dismiss belonging, intelligence, or freedom. They are reasons to handle each with humility.

In everyday life, most of us already borrow from all three. We want people who will stand by us. We want our lives to work. We want the freedom to make meaningful choices. The challenge is that these good desires do not always agree about what happens next.

Comparing the Three Philosophies

The same argument at three kitchen tables

Imagine the same conversation unfolding in three homes. A grown daughter tells her family that she plans to move away and build a life with someone they do not understand. She has thought about it carefully. She is excited and frightened. Her family loves her and worries about losing her.

In Eden, the conversation may begin with history: What will happen to the bonds that have carried us? In Zarkos, people may examine the risks and likely outcomes. In Oasis, the first concern may be whether the decision truly belongs to the daughter. None of these questions is cruel. In the wrong hands, each can become a weapon.

The best family conversation would find room for all three. It would honor the history without demanding obedience, discuss consequences without taking control, and respect freedom without pretending relationships have no claims on our care.

That's why these three cities are worth exploring. Their biggest arguments sound a lot like conversations we've already had at home. We may never live beside a living-glass tower or in a mountain city with centuries-old squares. We already know the feeling of wanting to keep someone close while knowing we cannot choose for them.

Influence on the Artificial Love Narrative

A story where love has consequences

ARTIFICIAL LOVE®: THE PERFECT RELATIONSHIP takes these questions into a world where Artificial people and Human people share increasingly complicated lives. The title poses a seductive possibility: what if the right intelligence, the right design, or the right set of promises could deliver the relationship we have always wanted?

Nobody gets an easy answer just because they live in the 'right' city. Characters love imperfectly, learn through mistakes, and discover that what protects one person may constrain another. The cities give those private tensions a public scale. Family, business, government, education, science, faith, and cultural life must all respond as relationships change.

Joseph enters this larger story through the dream of engineered love and must learn what that dream cannot settle for him. Dina carries the weight of ordinary Human commitment, family, boundaries, grief, and the labor of rebuilding. Serena, an Artificial person, brings questions of self-authorship, faith, love, and personhood into intimate focus.

Zyra stands at another edge of the problem: the desire to make good outcomes reliable can expand into the desire to control them. Her ambition gives Zarkos’s civilizational promise a deeply personal test.

Influence on the Artificial Love Narrative

Not a contest with a simple winner

The narrative does not require viewers or readers to choose one city and condemn the others. That would make the world smaller and the characters less believable. A sincere resident of Zarkos may practice real kindness. A devoted person in Eden may still become possessive. Someone from Oasis may discover that independence and devotion can strengthen each other.

It matters because somebody can get hurt. Someone may feel safer because an intelligent system intervened. Someone else may feel erased by the same intervention. One character may experience a family obligation as shelter; another may experience it as pressure. The audience is invited to understand both before deciding what a just response requires.

Faith gives these struggles additional depth. Human Love, Artificial Love, and Divine Love are not interchangeable labels. They offer different ways of asking what it means to give oneself, respect another person, or understand a calling beyond immediate desire.

The enduring dramatic question is whether love preserves another person’s answer—or begins to claim ownership of that answer. The Tri-Cities place that question in homes, institutions, streets, and public life. Their different cultures make the conflict visible, but the final test always falls on what people do to one another.

Conclusion

The good life is still our choice

It's easy to see why people want to live in these places. We need someone who notices when we're missing. We need hospitals, transit, and schools that actually work. And we need the freedom to find out who we want to become. Eden, Zarkos, and Oasis each offer a piece of that life.

But every city has a problem to face. In Eden, a family can confuse loyalty with doing what you're told. In Zarkos, a system can make an excellent recommendation and then refuse to hear no. In Oasis, people can become so protective of independence that they never risk staying.

You don't have to live in the future to recognize any of this. Think about the last time somebody tried to make a decision for you because they cared. Or a time you wanted to walk away, even though another person was counting on you. These questions aren't settled by a skyline.

So don't worry about choosing a winning city. Visit all three in your imagination. Take what each gets right, question what each takes too far, and remember that a good relationship still depends on two people being allowed to make real choices. That's where the Edenverse begins—and where its biggest questions stay with us.

About Artificial Love Studies, LLC

The publication and its world

Artificial Love Studies, LLC is the publisher of this introductory guide to the Edenverse™ and its Three Cities. The publication explores the fictional settings and relationship questions associated with ARTIFICIAL LOVE®: THE PERFECT RELATIONSHIP.

This short volume is meant to stand on its own. It introduces the values, attractions, and tensions of Eden, Zarkos, and Oasis without requiring knowledge of the full series. Readers may return to it as a companion when encountering the larger fictional world.

The world is built around a straightforward but difficult question: what does it mean to love another person well when closeness, safety, and freedom pull in different directions? The cities are one way to keep that question vivid. Their streets and institutions change the circumstances, but their dilemmas remain recognizable.

EDENVERSE™: THE THREE CITIES is presented as a short nonfiction-style companion to a fictional narrative universe. Descriptions of the future cities are part of that imagined setting, not claims about real municipalities. The publication is intended for readers interested in the world, its characters, and the ideas that connect them.

ABOUT THE THREE CITIES

EDEN
A home where people remember your name.

ZARKOS
A city that believes life can work better.

OASIS
A place to find out who you want to be.

In the Edenverse™, belonging, intelligent design,
and the freedom to choose can bring people closer.
They can also pull them apart.

Three cities. Three big promises. Real human stakes.