

Digital Heretic The Game Is Life Terry Schott

Dawn belongs to a secret group of teenagers who play a cloak and dagger game on their cell phones. Her world is turned upside down when the players' actions begin to affect reality, and not in good ways... When one person dares to speak her truth, it challenges us all to live our own. With *Red Hot and Holy*, Sera Beak offers a provocative and intimate view of what it means to get up close and personal with the divine in modern times. With a rare combination of audacious wit, scholarly acumen, and tender vulnerability—vibrantly mixed with red wine, rock songs, tattoos, and erotic encounters—Sera candidly chronicles the highs and lows of her mystical journey. From the innocence of her childhood crush on God; through a whirlwind of torrid liaisons and bitter break-ups with Christianity, Buddhism, Sufism, Hinduism, and the New Age; and finally into committed monogamy with her own Red Hot and Holy Goddess, Sera shares transformative insights, encouraging us all to trust our unique path and ignite our own spiritual love affair. Sera Beak's luscious writing and renegade spiritual wisdom that slices through religious and new age dogma made her debut book *The Red Book* a breakout success. With *Red Hot and Holy* she offers a far more personal book—an illuminating, hilarious, and above all utterly honest portrait of the heart-opening process of mystical realization. This hot and holy book invites you to embrace your soul, unleash your true Self, and burn, baby, burn with divine love. Excerpt As a child, I was madly in love with God. Gaga for God. In grade school, I used to write “I (heart) God” at the top of all my homework assignments and in the margins of the notes I passed to my girlfriends about which boys we thought were cute. Next to *The Little Princess*, a children's bible was kept on my bedside table for nightly reading. Miracles? Prophetic dreams? Angels? Healing the sick? Sign me up for those gigs! And every Thursday I believed J.C. dropped by my bedroom so I could ask him personal questions and tell him which sister was annoying me the most. I was magnetized to rosaries, prayers, and pyramids the way other kids were to doughnuts, MTV and the Cabbage Patch Kids, and every time I saw a religious figure (priest, nun, Buddhist monk, Hare Krishna) out in public, it would take an enormous amount of willpower not to stalk them. When Career Days at school would come around, my questionnaire would look a little something like this: Favorite subject? God Favorite hobby? God What do you want to be when you grow up? God (Okay, there was a brief time when I was six years old when the answer to that last question was “an albino.” I thought albinism would make me glow in the dark.) When I was a child, God was not a belief of a magical Santa Claus type. He was as real as my heart. I felt Him (inside me). I recognized Him (everywhere). I knew Him (personally). We hung out together, and I never wanted our rendezvous to stop. I only wanted us to draw closer. I assumed I was experiencing what many Catholics refer to as “the call” to be a priest, so I matter-of-factly informed my parish priests and Sunday school teachers of my future vocation. They laughed, patted my head, and told me I couldn't have heard the call to be a priest because I had a vagina. Okay, they didn't say that last part, but believe me, it was implied. They did tell me that only men were allowed to be priests because Jesus only had male disciples (to which Mary Magdalene juts out her left hip and slaps her round cheek with *The Gospel of Mary Magdalene*). But, of course, I could always be a nun.

the Game is Life : Book 2 Millions on Earth are shaken by the events set in motion by Zack's final play... Billions on Tygon watch breathlessly as the consequences of his actions ripple through both worlds. Will his girlfriend, still inside the Game, step forward to lead the movement that he created? Lives are in jeopardy of being lost... based on the decisions made by children inside the Game.

Acts and Monuments by John Foxe, popularly abridged as *Foxe's Book of Martyrs*, is a celebrated work of church history and martyrology, first published in English in 1563 by John Day. Published early in the reign of Queen Elizabeth I and only five years after the death of the Roman Catholic Queen Mary I, Foxe's *Acts and Monuments* was an affirmation of the Protestant Reformation in England during a period of religious conflict between Catholics and Protestants. Foxe's account of church history asserted a historical justification that was intended to establish the Church of England as a continuation of the true Christian church rather than as a modern innovation, and it contributed significantly to a nationalistic repudiation of the Roman Catholic Church. The sequence of the work, initially in five books, covered first early Christian martyrs, a brief history of the medieval church, including the Inquisitions, and a history of the Wycliffite or Lollard movement. It then dealt with the reigns of Henry VIII and Edward VI, during which the dispute with Rome had led to the separation of the English Church from papal authority and the issuance of the Book of Common Prayer. The final book treated the reign of Queen Mary and the Marian Persecutions. (courtesy of wikipedia.com)

The fifth title in *The Horus Heresy: Primarchs* series, delving into the story of Lorgar, primarch of the Word Bearers Legion and the first of the Emperor's sons to fall to Chaos. Most devoted of all the primarchs, it was Lorgar who first fell to the lure of Chaos. Once known as Aurelian, this golden son of the Emperor of Mankind found himself an outcast because he worshipped his father as a god. Humbled before the ruins of Monarchia, chastened and brought low, Lorgar yearned for deeper meaning. He found it in the power of Ruin and thus began the descent into heresy. His fate had not always been so. On Colchis, his adopted birth world, Lorgar was not always the zealot, though his path would be nurtured by one: the priest Kor Phaeron.

Arthur (Art) Mumby and his irritating sister Myrtle live with their father in the huge and rambling house, Larklight, travelling through space on a remote orbit far beyond the Moon. One ordinary sort of morning they receive a correspondence informing them that a gentleman is on his way to visit, a Mr Webster. Visitors to Larklight are rare if not unique, and a frenzy of preparation ensues. But it is entirely the wrong sort of preparation, as they discover when their guest arrives, and a Dreadful and Terrifying (and Marvellous) adventure begins. It takes them to the furthest reaches of Known Space, where they must battle the evil First Ones in a desperate attempt to save each other - and the Universe. Recounted through the eyes of Art himself, *Larklight* is sumptuously designed and illustrated throughout.

Monsters prey on the innocent. He preys on the monsters. Forget what you've been told. Monsters DO exist and they're hungry. Standing in their way are the men and women of the new Templar Order. Men like Cade Williams, an ex-SWAT officer turned modern Templar knight who now commands the Vatican's most elite monster hunting squad, the Echo Team. When a group of powerful necromancers seek to bend an ancient, mystical artifact to their own evil ends, it will be up to Cade and the Echo Team to stop them before all hell, literally, breaks out. Keywords: free urban fantasy books, urban fantasy free, gritty urban fantasy, urban fantasy series, urban fantasy series for adults, urban fantasy hero, urban fantasy mystery, urban fantasy thriller, dark urban fantasy, supernatural special ops, supernatural combat team, cosmic horror, occult horror, supernatural horror, monster hunter, monster hunter series, myths and legends, supernatural creatures, monsters, supernatural adventure, supernatural investigation, supernatural detective, occult detective, ancient legends, arcane artifacts, mystical artifacts, paranormal fiction, urban fantasy fiction, angel, demon, fallen angel, mage, magic, magick, dark magick, dark arts, devils & demons, demon summoning, necromancer, raising the dead, shapeshifters, psychometry, vampires, werewolf, witch, witches, dead spirits, ghost, wraith, evil curse, popular series, top urban fantasy Similar authors and series: Faith Hunter, Jane Yellowrock, Lilith Saintcrow, Jill Kismet, Caitlin Kittredge, Black London, Larry Correia, Monster Hunters International, Richard Kadrey, Sandman Slim, Christopher Golden, Kelley Armstrong, John G Hartners, Quincy Harker, David Wellington, Laura Caxton, SM Reine, Jayne Faith, Clara Coulson

Humanity Survived... Barely, and thanks to networks of gigantic Tower systems created to surround small villages with a protective barrier of lethal energy. It kept everything out. And everyone in. Sixteen years have passed, and a girl born the night the world fell apart learns that she has a strange talent. The Towers can speak. and she is the only one who can hear them...

The Game Game Is Life

The online economy offers challenges to traditional businesses as well as incredible opportunities. Chris Anderson makes the compelling case that in many instances businesses can succeed best by giving away more than they charge for. Known as "Freemium," this combination of free and paid is emerging as one of the most powerful digital business models. In *Free*, Chris Anderson explores this radical idea for the new global economy and demonstrates how it can be harnessed for the benefit of consumers and businesses alike. In the twenty-first century, *Free* is more than just a promotional gimmick: It's a business strategy that is essential to a company's successful future. Download the audiobook of *Free* for free! Details inside the book.

Changing history is harder than it appears. Every time Nathan thinks he has stopped a world-ending war, he learns that somebody is trying to start it again. But once this is over, he'll be free to relax and spend some quality time with his Champions. As the war heats up, Nathan finds himself caught up in the schemes and fluffy tails of one of his former Champions, Narime. More figures from his past intrude, including a dark elf with a twisted personality and a princess who makes Nathan question his memories. Behind everything, Kadria lurks alongside the other Messengers. Nathan finds himself buried in politics and at risk of losing everything should his heretical alliance with her be discovered. In the end, the risk is worth it. Because the reward is to get back everything that Nathan lost. *Heretic Spellblade* contains plenty of violence, harem/undefined relationships, beast girls, and scenes that don't fade to black. Consider yourself warned.

The time for secrets is coming to an end. Nathan has changed history and stopped the end of the world, but the future is more uncertain than ever. Conquering the Federation has turned Nathan into a national hero, but also earned him countless enemies. The peace he has won looks short-lived. The Empire is fracturing around him as nobles fight over the throne. Civil war looms. Further north, the dark elves investigate the incident that nearly destroyed their ancient metropolis. Nathan finds himself dragged into dark elf politics, and sandwiched between Nurevia and Astra, two beautiful dark elf Champions who are old friends and rivals. Nathan's dark pact with the demonic Messengers will be the key to preventing the world from falling apart. He just needs to protect everyone he cares about in the process. *Heretic Spellblade* contains plenty of violence, undefined relationships, beast girls, and scenes that don't fade to black.

A chronicle of Elizabeth I's role in the wars of religion credits her with securing England's future as a world power, covering topics ranging from the queen's use of ambivalence as a political tool to her tolerance in religious matters and the challenges of the Reformation.

The popular Postmortem column in *Game Developer* magazine features firsthand accounts of how some of the most important and successful games of recent years have been made. This book offers the opportunity to harvest this expertise with one volume. The editor has organized the articles by theme and added previously unpublished analysis to reveal successful management techniques. Readers learn how superstars of the game industry like Peter Molyneux and Warren Spector have dealt with the development challenges such as managing complexity, software and game design issues, schedule challenges, and changing staff needs.

Charlie Garcia has spent his life helping others. For years, he's provided free healthcare for his neighbors and served as a counselor for his friends and their partners. He loves being the go-to guy, except when it results in him falling for the wrong man. Now, six years later, the one who got away is back in Denver to donate a kidney, and he has a request - he wants Charlie to marry him long enough to serve as medical power of attorney. Charlie's happy to help, but in addition to a surprise fiancé, he suddenly has two huge problems: a neighbor with a grudge who wants to ruin his career, and a secret that may destroy his friendship with Warren, Phil, and Gray. Bonus Content: Includes three new *Heretic Doms Club* vignettes. 20% of the author's proceeds from ebook sales will be donated to the National Kidney Foundation.

Why do obviously intelligent people believe things in spite of the evidence against them? Will Storr has travelled across the world to meet an extraordinary cast of modern heretics in order to answer this question. He goes on a tour of Holocaust sites with David Irving and a band of neo-Nazis, experiences his own murder during 'past-life regression' hypnosis, takes part in a mass homeopathic overdose, and investigates a new disease affecting tens of thousands of people - a disease that doesn't actually exist. Using a unique mix of personal memoir, investigative journalism and the latest research from neuroscience and experimental psychology, Storr reveals why the facts just won't convince some people, and how the neurological 'hero-maker' inside all of us can so easily lead to self-deception and science-denial. *The Heretics* will change the way you think about thinking.

From the creator of the award-winning *THE ANIMALS OF FARTHING WOOD* books, comes the *CITY CATS* series: incredible animal adventures starring furry felines, Sammy and Pinkie. Big city cats Sammy and Pinkie are living in the fast lane. Pinkie's expecting kittens and proud Sammy is top cat of the neighbourhood - but how long will their good life last?

He didn't know he was playing. Zack was just living his life. It was really a game. When he started to ask questions, everything changed. Zack wasn't supposed to figure it out. He could ruin everything. Zack was disoriented when he woke up. They had welcomed him back. He didn't know where he'd been. He just remembered being 74 and near death. They said he was seventeen. What was this "best score" they kept going on about? Where was this place? Who were these people? And why did they keep talking about the next game? You'll love the first book in the series and get lost in the elaborate world created by Terry Schott. It will keep you turning pages until the end. Get book 1 now.

Time is running out... Thanks to his father's mysterious pocket watch, Gideon "Gad" Goodwin knows the exact time and date when someone is about to die. He uses that information in his role as an EMT to save as many lives as possible. Unfortunately, he's unwittingly disrupting the Balance between Heaven and Hell while doing so and that has cosmic consequences. Not only do his actions give Hell and its demons the upper hand in Las Vegas, the City of Sin, but it also paints a target on Gad's back for both sides of the conflict. Even worse, his pocket watch is now

suddenly counting down the hours to his own appointed time with the grim reaper. Can Gad put things to right and restore the Balance before the watch ticks down his final moments?

A fast-paced and gripping near-future science fiction debut about the gritty world of competitive gaming... Every week, Kali Ling fights to the death on national TV. She's died hundreds of times. And it never gets easier... The RAGE tournaments—the Virtual Gaming League's elite competition where the best gamers in the world compete in a no-holds-barred fight to the digital death. Every bloody kill is broadcast to millions. Every player is a modern gladiator—leading a life of ultimate fame, responsible only for entertaining the masses. And though their weapons and armor are digital, the pain is real. Chosen to be the first female captain in RAGE tournament history, Kali Ling is at the top of the world—until one of her teammates overdoses. Now, she must confront the truth about the tournament. Because it is much more than a game—and even in the real world, not everything is as it seems. The VGL hides dark secrets. And the only way to change the rules is to fight from the inside...

The Game is Life - Book 7 Deceived by a trusted colleague, Loredana Cyber, heir to the world's largest entertainment company, walks away from big business and vows never to return. When a young programmer on the verge of perfecting an incredible new technology comes to her for help, she must decide; remain anonymous, or return to an arena that betrayed her. Also available in The Game is Life series: 1- The Game 2- Digital Heretic 3- Interlude-Brandon 4- Virtual Prophet 5- Shadows 6- Digital Evolution 7- Cyber 8- Fragmented

1984 is George Orwell's terrifying vision of a totalitarian future in which everything and everyone is slave to a tyrannical regime lead by The Party. Winston Smith works for the Ministry of Truth in London, chief city of Airstrip One. Big Brother stares out from every poster, the Thought Police uncover every act of betrayal. When Winston finds love with Julia, he discovers that life does not have to be dull and deadening, and awakens to new possibilities. Despite the police helicopters that hover and circle overhead, Winston and Julia begin to question the Party; they are drawn towards conspiracy. Yet Big Brother will not tolerate dissent - even in the mind. For those with original thoughts they invented Room 101. . .

Her world has been turned upside down In only a few weeks, Luna's life has changed more than she ever imagined that it could But she's about to learn that the transition has only started to affect her life...and world...

Practical applications for using social media to boost your business Even today's most successful businesses are seeing shrinking returns on their advertising and marketing dollars. The Digital Handshake explains why advertising and marketing are losing their effectiveness and how to solve the problem using social media to corral elusive consumers. It explains the best practical business applications in current use and how you can use them to ramp up your business. Using case studies gleaned from real businesses, author Paul Chaney shows you how companies both large and small that can tap social media to mitigate market changes and reap valuable business benefit in the real world. Explains how you can use social media to grow your business and connect with consumers Author Paul Chaney is a leading authority on blogging and social media Covers practical, effective business applications for blogging, social networking, online video, microblogging and much more Shows how to design a comprehensive marketing strategy using traditional and new media platforms Today's technology can either undermine your marketing efforts or enhance them. The Digital Handshake helps you make sure the Internet grows your business for the long run.

In 1327, Brother William of Baskerville is sent to investigate charges of heresy against Franciscan monks at a wealthy Italian abbey but finds his mission overshadowed by seven bizarre murders.

You cannot murder a person who never existed. It is not impossible to rewrite history. In fact, when one computer runs the world, changing history happens faster. Those who were heroes have been labeled villains. The alien Melagorns and Dreth, once friends, are now competitors at best. The Regime works to instill loyalty to humanity. Loyalty to brotherhood. Loyalty to the state. Loyalty to the words preached every night. Humanity first. Truth! Those with power are Tainted. Truth! The Tainted prove Loyalty by working for the Regime. Truth! Tainted who hide power seek to harm Humanity. Truth! Hail, Victory! Hail, Humanity! Except not everyone follows the truth. John Zechin fled into a radioactive wasteland, seeking death rather than work in the Regime. What he learns changes humanity forever. Go up and click Read for Free or Buy Now and learn who the Regime is trying to hide, for now, and will kill if she returns.

Celebrated scientists Nicholas Christakis and James Fowler explain the amazing power of social networks and our profound influence on one another's lives. Your colleague's husband's sister can make you fat, even if you don't know her. A happy neighbor has more impact on your happiness than a happy spouse. These startling revelations of how much we truly influence one another are revealed in the studies of Dr. Christakis and Fowler, which have repeatedly made front-page news nationwide. In Connected, the authors explain why emotions are contagious, how health behaviors spread, why the rich get richer, even how we find and choose our partners. Intriguing and entertaining, Connected overturns the notion of the individual and provides a revolutionary paradigm—that social networks influence our ideas, emotions, health, relationships, behavior, politics, and much more. It will change the way we think about every aspect of our lives.

Argues that technology is changing the way we understand human society and discusses how the disciplines of politics, culture, public debate, morality, and humanism will be affected when responsibility for them is delegated to technology.

Zack may have been ejected from the Game, but Alexandra is still in play and all of Tygon is on the edge of their seat to see what happens. Their movement, The Game is Life, has gained much ground, but Danni struggles with the aftermath of Trew's play ending early. Will she take the mantle and lead the movement, or will she hide in the shadows? Digital Heretic really discusses the idea of wasting a life, or in this case "their play." Interviews with fans talking about how bored they are to watch players not living up to their potential in the Game, succumbing to the mundane and monotonous aspects of life. It really made me think about how I tend to get sucked into the monotony of my adult life, putting off things I want to experience for mundane things.

Do you have a real relationship with God, or do you just have a religion? Do you know God, or do you just know about God? In How Big Is Your God? Paul Coutinho, SJ, challenges us to grow stronger and deeper in our faith and in our relationship with God—a God whose love knows no bounds. To help us on our way, Coutinho introduces us to people in various world religions—from Hindu friends to Buddhist teachers to St. Ignatius of Loyola—who have shaped his spiritual life and made possible his deep, personal relationship with God.

It all comes down to one final fight for the future of the Federation. Even without the Morgana in her head, Stephanie's attitude has become dark indeed. Now, she has decided the best way to stop a war, is attack. Unfortunately, the Telorans have not arrived, and will likely miss this battle. Stephanie considers the cost in lives of those in cryo-storage and is willing to gamble the whole effort to save those who are still sleeping. Is it the best decision militarily? Probably not. But if she didn't, she wouldn't be the Witch of the Federation. It's the final book, strap yourself in and let's get started.

Thomas always enjoyed kingdom/city simulation games. When he discovers there is a kingdom building expansion to the hugely popular VRMMORPG Lewd Saga, he is determined to join the sensual fantasy game and build his destiny. Thomas becomes Edric Temple, summoner and adventurer, searching for others to help build a kingdom while a war rages across all of Lukken. The player slowly realizes Lewd Saga is more than just a fantasy game. Dark plots, torn hearts and medieval politics will place the young summoner in the eye of the storm between guilds, troll masters and what his heart truly desires. Can Edric keep his new friends and fledgling kingdom together as the forces of darkness threaten to destroy everything they created? Lewd Saga is a Virtual MMORPG, based in the fantasy world of Lukken, home of dragon royalty, human kingdoms and troll masters. Players quest, grow their abilities, join in great battles and find love and lust in whatever form they desire. There is no taboo too great or too intimate. Warning: The tale you are about to read is a story of sexual creatures, human or otherwise. This tale is for adults 18 and up.

Video game studies are a relative young but flourishing academic discipline. But within game studies, however, the perspective of religion and spirituality is rather neglected, both by game scholars and religion scholars. While religion can take different shapes in digital games, ranging from material and referential to reflexive and ritual, it is not necessarily true that game developers depict their in-game religions in a positive, confirming way, but ever so often games approach the topic critically and disavowingly. The religion criticisms found in video games can be categorized as follows: religion as (1) fraud, aimed to manipulate the uneducated, as (2) blind obedience towards an invisible but ultimately non-existing deity/ies, as (3) violence against those who do not share the same set of religious rules, as (4) madness, a deranged alternative for logical reasoning, and as (5) suppression in the hands of the powerful elite to dominate and subdue the masses into submission and obedience. The critical depictions of religion in video games by their developers is the focus of this special issue.

Charges of heresy and murder are complicated by the contents of a mysterious treasure chest In the summer of 1143, William of Lythwood arrives at the Benedictine Abbey of St. Peter and St. Paul, but it is not a joyous occasion—he's come back from his pilgrimage in a coffin. William's body is accompanied by his young attendant Elave, whose mission is to secure a burial place for his master on the abbey grounds, despite William's having once been reprimanded for heretical views. An already difficult task is complicated when Elave drunkenly expresses his own heretical opinions, and capital charges are filed. When a violent death follows, Sheriff Hugh Beringar taps his friend Brother Cadfael for help. The mystery that unfolds grows deeper thanks to a mysterious and marvelous treasure chest in Elave's care.

What will you learn from this book? Go makes it easy to build software that's simple, reliable, and efficient. And this book makes it easy for programmers like you to get started. Google designed Go for high-performance networking and multiprocessing, but—like Python and JavaScript—the language is easy to read and use. With this practical hands-on guide, you'll learn how to write Go code using clear examples that demonstrate the language in action. Best of all, you'll understand the conventions and techniques that employers want entry-level Go developers to know. Why does this book look so different? Based on the latest research in cognitive science and learning theory, HeadFirst Go uses a visually rich format to engage your mind rather than a text-heavy approach that puts you to sleep. Why waste your time struggling with new concepts? This multisensory learning experience is designed for the way your brain really works.

Dr. River McKay moved to Denver with his husband, Terrence, hoping to give their failing marriage a new start. A year later, Terrence is gone and River's left brokenhearted. Now, he's decided it's time to get back in the game. A chance encounter at the hospital introduces him to Phil, a strong-willed pharmacist who isn't impressed by River's degree. Phil can't deny his attraction to River, but dating is out of the question. Phil only does one kind of relationship - domestic servitude, where he gives the orders and his partner obeys. To his surprise, River agrees - not because he likes the idea, but because anything's better than being alone. They know the arrangement won't last. Phil's set in his ways and incapable of showing affection outside the bedroom. River's unused to obedience and still in love with his ex. But their time together will change them, making them question everything they thought they knew about control, respect, and love. When the unexpected threatens to tear them apart, they'll be forced to choose between the comforts of the past and a future they can only find together.

This is a paperbound edition of a 2001 book combining biography and larger historical narrative. Guy (history, U. of Natal, South Africa) studies the life of the daughter of the Bishop of Natal, Hariette Colenso, as a window into the continuing process of imperialism and colonialism after the destruction of the Zulu Kingdom's political hierarchy. After the military defeat of the Zulus, the invaders turned their attention to diverting Zululand's productive capacity and material wealth to the benefit of the colonizers; but a number of women and men, including Colenso, resisted this exploitation. Guy argues that an examination of her interaction with the Zulus should be viewed as a contribution to understanding the complicated role of women in the world of late-19th-century imperialism. Annotation copyrighted by Book News, Inc., Portland, OR

Masters of Doom is the amazing true story of the Lennon and McCartney of video games: John Carmack and John Romero. Together, they ruled big business. They transformed popular culture. And they provoked a national controversy. More than anything, they lived a unique and rollicking American Dream, escaping the broken homes of their youth to co-create the most notoriously successful game franchises in history—Doom and Quake—until the games they made tore them apart. Americans spend more money on video

games than on movie tickets. *Masters of Doom* is the first book to chronicle this industry's greatest story, written by one of the medium's leading observers. David Kushner takes readers inside the rags-to-riches adventure of two rebellious entrepreneurs who came of age to shape a generation. The vivid portrait reveals why their games are so violent and why their immersion in their brilliantly designed fantasy worlds offered them solace. And it shows how they channeled their fury and imagination into products that are a formative influence on our culture, from MTV to the Internet to Columbine. This is a story of friendship and betrayal, commerce and artistry—a powerful and compassionate account of what it's like to be young, driven, and wildly creative. “To my taste, the greatest American myth of cosmogenesis features the maladjusted, antisocial, genius teenage boy who, in the insular laboratory of his own bedroom, invents the universe from scratch. *Masters of Doom* is a particularly inspired rendition. Dave Kushner chronicles the saga of video game virtuosi Carmack and Romero with terrific brio. This is a page-turning, mythopoeic cyber-soap opera about two glamorous geek geniuses—and it should be read while scarfing down pepperoni pizza and swilling Diet Coke, with Queens of the Stone Age cranked up all the way.”—Mark Leyner, author of *I Smell Esther Williams*

An Introduction to Game Studies is the first introductory textbook for students of game studies. It provides a conceptual overview of the cultural, social and economic significance of computer and video games and traces the history of game culture and the emergence of game studies as a field of research. Key concepts and theories are illustrated with discussion of games taken from different historical phases of game culture. Progressing from the simple, yet engaging gameplay of Pong and text-based adventure games to the complex virtual worlds of contemporary online games, the book guides students towards analytical appreciation and critical engagement with gaming and game studies. Students will learn to: - Understand and analyse different aspects of phenomena we recognise as 'game' and 'play' - Identify the key developments in digital game design through discussion of action in games of the 1970s, fiction and adventure in games of the 1980s, three-dimensionality in games of the 1990s, and social aspects of gameplay in contemporary online games - Understand games as dynamic systems of meaning-making - Interpret the context of games as 'culture' and subculture - Analyse the relationship between technology and interactivity and between 'game' and 'reality' - Situate games within the context of digital culture and the information society With further reading suggestions, images, exercises, online resources and a whole chapter devoted to preparing students to do their own game studies project, *An Introduction to Game Studies* is the complete toolkit for all students pursuing the study of games. The companion website at www.sagepub.co.uk/mayra contains slides and assignments that are suitable for self-study as well as for classroom use. Students will also benefit from online resources at www.gamestudiesbook.net, which will be regularly blogged and updated by the author. Professor Frans Mäyrä is a Professor of Games Studies and Digital Culture at the Hypermedia Laboratory in the University of Tampere, Finland.

Alex Wolfson Legendary titan of business and industry around the globe. Said to possess a net worth greater than the twenty wealthiest countries in the world. It is rumoured that his control over world leaders and governments is absolute. An icon of his age, a name known to all. Yet no one has ever seen his face, or heard his voice. Until now... An incorruptible senator forced to choose between maintaining her morals or living. A computer genius finally recognized for his skill and offered his heart's desire for a price that might be more than he is willing to pay. And a retired special ops soldier enticed to return to a life of danger and bloodshed Alex Wolfson appears to each and sets them on a path that may lead to the world's salvation, or its destruction.

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