



Everywhere But No Place

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It is the year 2042. Prisons all over the European Union are bursting at the seams. Hans Schleiman, a criminal psychologist, has developed a new system for rehabilitating prisoners. He proposes that they be housed in virtual reality units where they spend the entirety of their sentence. Schleiman has developed software that aids the Subject's rehabilitation and he has built a new breed of supercomputer to oversee the process - the Hosts. The UK is the first country to try the scheme and Denver is one of the first of a hundred Subjects to be inserted into the Schleiman Tanks after being mixed up in an armed robbery. His pleas of self-defence are ignored and he is sentenced to twenty-five years in the Schleiman Tank.

Denver wakes up in a lush, green World — alone, and with no idea where he is or what this World might hold.

Elsewhere, on the outskirts of Glasgow City State, Haze, one-time hacker, wakes up in the bowels of a run-down estate. He is blind and destitute after a disastrous job five years before left him eyeless and on the run from the most dangerous men in the country. Haze is given an ultimatum — he either carries out one last job, for which he will have his eyesight restored as payment, or he will be killed.

It is Haze's task to break into the virtual World that Denver inhabits and retrieve a piece of information that could affect all their lives.

What no-one could prepare for is the very nature of the Host itself, a creature so advanced that not even the people who created it know what it is capable of.

Thrust together, Denver and Haze attempt the impossible, to steal the thoughts of a machine so advanced, so strange, that its very mind is a nightmare. So it is that Haze's one last job suddenly turns into a fight for survival.

Neither of them can guess what will finally happen when they confront the Host at the heart of its mind, where reality ceases to exist.

It is everywhere but no place . . .

Everywhere But No Place Details

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Cheri says

How about 3.5 stars. This is a good book...really riveting initially actually. Another reviewer called it cyberpunk. I might call it techie-philosophical-action. Regardless, the introduction and interweaving of the numerous characters and worlds is pretty flawless (with the exception of Jinzy and Cobalt, who I hated having to read about for 70% of the book because I didn't know who they were, they were weird, and it interrupted the flow of the story). At about the 50% mark, the author lost his editor, however. The book starts to drag in places and there are some blatant typos. Characters, that had been key to the story in the beginning, suddenly drop out of the narrative. (Also, it is important to note that the gruesome/gore level is REALLY high in this book.) Overall, I would still recommend this book, but with a little polish this could be a five star.

Rose says

Rose

Again I find an author who surprises me. Mark Foster has provided a new world within the realms of computerization. He has introduced us to many people living within and outside of a computerized life. Introducing Daniel as someone who strives to be a good person while he learns the lessons of life.

Tim Standafer says

Wonderfully descriptive read. There were a few slow spots but overall very enjoyable. There is supposed to be a sequel to this book but I have not heard nor seen that it has come out. I for one am looking forward to reading it.

Tim says

This book definitely has promise. Overall, the concept and the story line are solid and very engaging to the reader. There are some flow issues that cause the book to drag heavily in parts, especially in the middle. Personally, there were stretches of 5-10 pages that I felt I had to slog through while other parts seemed to be light and easily read. More than once I got to the bogged down sections and seriously contemplated giving up on the book.

That being said, the concept and the story are very good. The characters were well thought out and developed. Foster does a good job of building in character development into the story. He also does a good job of setting the scene - though I think this is where I got bogged down in the book. Foster writes very descriptively; sometimes it goes overboard.

I would definitely give another novel by Mark Foster a read. And if you like computers and a future based on

advanced technology, this is a good novel to read.

Gary says

Foster has written a great story. This novel is part cyberpunk, part fantasy quest, and full of interesting characters that the reader cares about. Highly recommended for anyone who enjoys sci-fi adventure. I can't wait to encounter another by Mark Foster.

Claudia Piña says

SHOW DON'T TELL

Michael says

This book was a little different from what I normally read, but the book's description reached out and touched me - I'm glad I picked this one up as it is a solid sci-fi / futuristic tale.

Without having a spoiler, the author does a great job of quickly getting you into the story and into the mind (literally and figuratively) of the main character, and he weaves a pretty good tale with a realistic plot and a little different conclusion than I was expecting. This sci-fi tale is an exception to some of the other sci-fi we have all read in that the technology of the future is believable, and I didn't find myself calling b.s. on what the author conveyed. You may find yourself daydreaming a "what if" with some of the predicted technological advances in terms of what would / could you do not.

Pam says

Bad at reviews..Its a uncomplicated sci fi fantasy and fun read. I really liked it. I had a preconceived idea about what i thought the book would be about. At the end it shows there is another book, i will be getting it. Thanx

Geoff says

This is one of my most recommended books, very easy to read on a mobile device. The story catches you, the idea believable whilst futuristic with very realistic characters. As it plays out I was really engaged and kept enthralled until the end.

Will we be getting more from this author?

Jim Willis says

I really liked this book, even though I'm not normally a big sci-fi fan. Some reviewers said that it bogged down in the middle, but I did not notice that. This was a really thought provoking look at the subject of artificial intelligence. I hope that this author writes more books.

Geo says

Absolutely fantastic book. I couldn't put it down for a second. I don't understand why it isn't published, it's incredible. The author is so so talented, his descriptions and phenomenal and I just got completely lost in the world he had created. I recommend this to everyone!! Starting the second book now and already I can't put it down!!!!

Mark Fishpool says

This was quite a fun story, quite fast moving most of the time. Some of the virtual reality characters seemed over the top in their behaviours and I felt some of it was more extreme than necessary for the story. Overall though a good book and I'll probably want to go on and read the sequel.

TIL en TUP says

A novel about a dystopia with AI managed prisons. The plot is riveting and most of the main characters are believable.

The idea of fully formed AI beings reminded me of Galouye's *Simulacron-3*; hopefully Foster is less prescient than Galouye. As in *Prometheus*, some AIs - the Hosts - consider what to do with us - their creators.

I almost downgraded it to a two star because of the excessive violence of two characters - a little violence would have made the plot points. I won't be reading the sequel because I prefer to read about neurotic villains and, even more, about intelligent if flawed heroes, but your preferences may differ.

Monika King says

I am very stingy with 5 stars but this book definitely earns it. Easy to read, futuristic but yet believable. The story is fast paced with surprising twist and turns and very inventive details. I hope to see more from this author.

Liquid Frost says

Kindle Freebie. I picked up this and others on my sweep for free books that aren't from Christian authors (harder than you may think). It was an interesting read. Haze's back story was good, but then he went flat. Denver was likable as was Moses (hmmm?) and Val. Good glitch moment that could explain Christian myth; also part Matrix-y. The Author said he really liked Jensy - I actually found the he he hak, or whatever, a bit annoying. He and Cobalt were tossed in early and I was all WTF is this line - but it makes sense later. The dialogue and action were good in spurts, but some more editing would help flesh out this piece. I wonder if Londoners have different grammar rules, but I had a hardish time some sentence structures. Overall - liked it.
