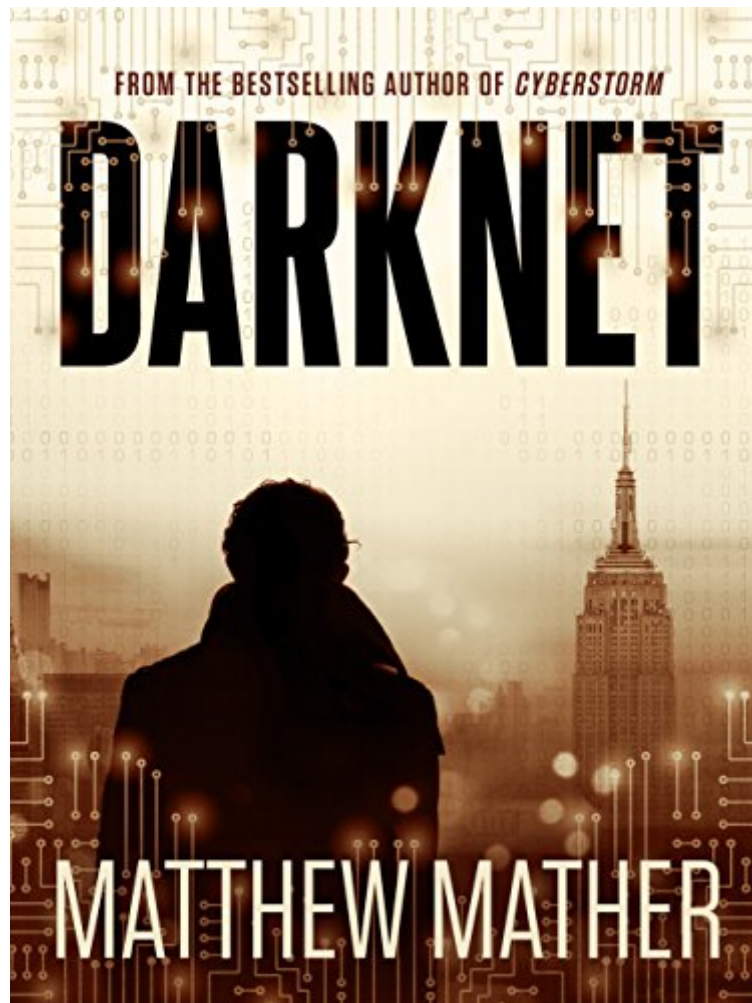


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Darknet



Synopsis

From the million-copy bestselling author of *CyberStorm* comes a frighteningly realistic new thriller, an adrenaline-fueled mystery with a noir/tech edge that will delight fans of Baldacci, Child, and Cussler. A GLOBAL CORPORATION HIDES A DARK SECRET—A TERRIFYING NEW ADVANCE IN TECHNOLOGY—WILL BE REVEALED. Follow one man's journey through a shadowy underworld that threatens the security of humanity. In a world where corporations have the same rights as human beings—Profit is everything and psychopathic executives call the shots—Anything is possible. FROM THE BACK COVER - DARKNET Jake O'Connell leaves a life of crime and swears he'll never return, but his new life as a stock broker in New York is ripped away when his childhood friend Sean Womack is murdered. Thousands of miles away in Hong Kong, scientist Jin Huang finds a list of wealthy dead people in a massive banking conspiracy. Problem is, some of the people don't stay dead. As Jin begins her investigation, she's petrified to discover her own name on the growing list of dead-but-alive. On the run, Jake O'Connell and Jin Huang race across continents to uncover a dark secret spreading like a cancer into the world. Why was Sean killed, and how is the list of wealthy dead connected? Are some of them really coming back to life? But all this becomes irrelevant when Jake's family is attacked... About the Author Translated into 18 languages, published in 23 countries, with multiple TV and movie contracts including 20th Century Fox developing his second novel, *CyberStorm*, for a major film release, Matthew Mather's books are worldwide bestsellers. He began his career at the McGill Center for Intelligent Machines researching artificial intelligence before starting high-tech ventures in everything from computational nanotechnology to electronic health records to weather prediction systems. He now works as a full-time author of speculative fiction. *Darknet* has ranked as a top best seller in its techno thriller, conspiracy, and science fiction categories, and if you enjoy A.G. Riddle, Hugh Howey, and Michael Crichton, then you'll love this new thriller.

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Customer Reviews

"Darknet" by Matthew Mather is an intense techno-thriller that is all too real and relevant. The possibilities presented in the storyline are sobering, disturbing, and breathtaking. With the world being on the threshold of Artificial Intelligence the potential for corruption on a massive scale, and a presumptive corporate/political oligarchy becomes all the more prescient. Mather brings this remarkable, well researched, and imaginative storyline to the fore and it will definitely make you stand up and take notice of the direction technology is heading in the here and now. If you enjoy suspense, action, and frightening realities you are going to love this hair raising expose about the underbelly of the world-wide web so buckle up and prepare to take the ride of your life...5 stars!!!!

Jake O'Connell left a life of crime for the life of a successful Wall Street broker, but when his best friend is murdered, and his boss is arrested for fraud claiming that a large hedge fund company is framing him his life is turned upside down. At the same time, Jin Huang, a Chinese-American computer expert accused of illegal hacking in the U.S. who is now forced to work in Hong Kong, finds strange connections between deceased wealthy Chinese and financial transactions. When her cousin, who was investigating these strange occurrences, dies in a freak elevator accident, she is accused of killing him. She then finds herself on a target list generated by a dark web organization, a crowd-funded murder collective known as Assassin Market. The lives of these two are entwined as they discover a global conspiracy that appears to be run by an extremely sophisticated AI that controls one of the world's

richest companies. Set in the present day, *Darknet* by Matthew Mather is a chilling tale of a world that is threatened by human greed and the tendency to put too much faith in soulless machines. It starts on a high note and rises to a startling conclusion that will leave you breathless, and not a small bit leery the next time you insert a credit card into a computer-based reader. The human characters are richly detailed, but the most frightening character is the machine that lurks in the background.

Darknet falls into an expanding SciFi category: Near Future, where the author extrapolates existing technology. As Matthew Mather points out at the end, he is surprised that some of what he posits is occurring now, and he gives links to supporting articles. Two keys to this book are Automation and Psychopathy. I learned very quickly not to get attached to any of the book's characters. They might die before my eyes. *Darknet*'s fast pace befits the ever quickening pace of the technology it explores. I paid attention to the Chatbot analogy, and reality, since Chatbot demonstrates the underlying relevance of AI for perceiving a machine as a human. I've been a computer programmer for almost 50 years (now retired, but still active). Anticipating the future was always part of my job. What Matthew presents in this action crammed novel fits perfectly with many of my projections, and those of my peers. I look forward to Matthew's continued productivity and maturation as an author/artist/wordsmith. Thank you Mr. Mather; this is the first book I've bought after reading via Kindle Unlimited. I'm on to *CyberStorm*. I highly Recommend *Darknet*! Aloha.. Allen[bot?!?]

It's an extremely well written book and had me hooked with the mystery surrounding the first half of the book. While high tech drama isn't my cup of tea, this was still a pretty good read and readable for those of us who aren't geeks. The book lost me though when all it took was 3 or 4 geeks to overturn the automaton globally powerful DAC that was changing the world. Bluebridge was taking over the world but three or four young geeksters were able to hack this and that and thwart the massive global threat of the menacing techno-wizard corporation? Am glad I read it and others will enjoy it as well no doubt. 5 stars because it was well written and researched. 3 stars because the ending was a disappointing and simple. Averages 4 stars for me.

I would recommend this book to both technical and non-technical readers. The author does a good job of describing technical concepts without going too deep or long. Overall the story was well done and had nice flow. What was my reaction to the ending? Although I enjoyed the ending, compared to other technical thrillers, I thought it was a bit flat. This is also the case compared to other materials

by the same author. Not a bad ending, but not a show-stopper either. What about Tom Taylorson's performance did I like? I enjoyed the narration of the book, and reader did a good job of using inflection and different voices for the characters. Could I see Darknet being made into a movie or a TV series? I would think a movie rather than TV series. I would think a better option from this author would be "Cyber Storm" for becoming a movie to TV series.

Good, not great. It took me awhile to get into it, but once I did I found it to be a page turner. I thought the writing flowed well, and the tech is something one can believe is not too far around the corner from today. The characters were interesting and I thought realistic enough. I also liked how the novel draws on interesting (and surprising) real world facts, such as the Assassination Market and Mohawk Internet Technologies (MIT). However as another reviewer wrote, "the evil side is so powerful and Jake and Jin have so few resources they both should die fairly early into the story." I agree, and that's one of the reasons I had trouble getting into the initial story. Why, for example, is the lead character targeted only to be watched, not eliminated, early on? It seems mostly due to the need to have him live in the novel, rather than be a realistic decision of the opposition. The good guys also have an awful lot of fortuitous connections in their backstories that give them the resources they need to succeed in the end.

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