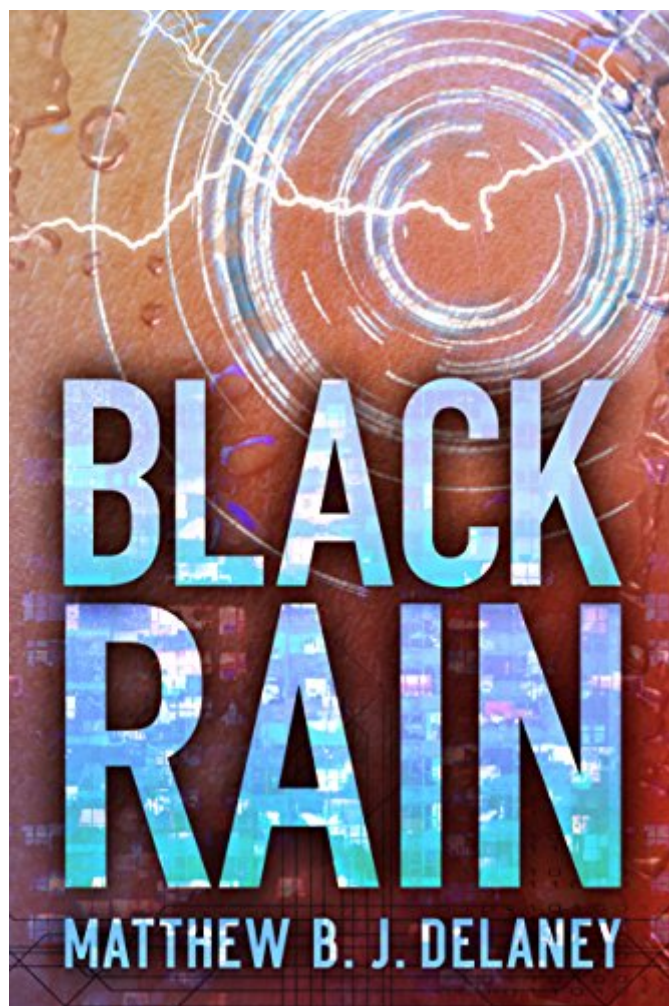


The book was found

Black Rain



Synopsis

In a darkly warped near future, lucrative disease cures are brokered on Wall Street's Genetic Stock Exchange. And the hottest consumer products are artificially synthesized humans that serve as everything from domestic slaves to combatants in savage gladiatorial games. For Jack Saxton, the young heir to genetic design powerhouse Genico Inc., these Synthates are just a fact of life until the murder of a high-profile genetic scientist leads a pair of seasoned NYPD detectives to Genico's door. As a small band of Synthate rebels steps up its attack on the status quo, Jack encounters a pleasure-parlor girl who opens his eyes to their cause. When he dares to sympathize with the rebels, Jack is hunted down and arrested for the murder. Sentenced to die in the brutal games on Bloomberg Island, Jack will be forced to fight for his life, for the future of all Synthates, and for a chance to uncover the mind-bending secret buried in his past.

Book Information

File Size: 1959 KB

Print Length: 386 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 1503937011

Publisher: 47North (September 1, 2016)

Publication Date: September 1, 2016

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B01B1OGQMO

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #1,564 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #11 in Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Thrillers & Suspense > Crime > Heist #19 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction > Genetic Engineering #19 in Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction > Genetic Engineering

Customer Reviews

I have to admit, I was about one-third of the way through this book and thought I had found a winner. The world that Mr. Delaney had created was very detailed and extremely interesting. The

book held my interest and I was concerned about what would happen with the main character. I was ready to commend the author for having established some gritty characters without resorting to f-bombs to get the point across...then everything began to change. Here's a synopsis of what worked and what didn't, without any spoilers:

THE WORLD -- Though similar to many stories involving androids or robots that eventually come into conflict with humans, the details of this future world helped make it come alive. There was no way that I could resist being drawn into and marvel at what the author had created. For me, this was the best aspect of the book.

THE CHARACTERS -- It was easy to cheer on the main character, Jack Sexton, as well as a couple of the other people introduced into the story. This definitely contributed to the book being a quick read.

THE PLOT -- Overall, a good idea for a story. The tale of humans and non-humans coexisting is not a new one, and Mr. Delaney has done a good job creating a fresh look at the potential troubles. Some of the plot elements in the second half of the story were troubling, though. Characters should not suddenly be able to have talents just because it is necessary to the plot (for instance, Night, a secondary character, twice displays incredible skills that are not part of her background). Too many incredulous, thank-the-stars moments occur in the second half, plot devices that cheapen what could have been an incredible story.

Quick & Dirty Highlights This taut thriller is a good bet to rocket to number one among Kindle books. The writing will latch onto your psyche and tug you this way and that, with solid, evocative writing. Although written with an eye to *The Hunger Games*, it reminded me more of *The Running Man*. On the negative side - almost gratuitous density of f-bombs and the feeling of anxiety remaining for the next story...

Length: Print, 386 pages. **Target Audience/Genre:** Action-Adventure would be my genre. Shades of *The Running Man* and of *The Hunger Games*, to be more specific.

Q - How was this book obtained? **A -** Bought as my Kindle First selection.

Q - Is this a book that I can read without having to read others first? **A -** " Yes, but when you finish reading this tale, you're likely to be scrambling to find a sequel.

Q - Are there a lot of typos/misspellings, grammatical errors or other editing failures? **A -** " No.

Q - Is this a fast, easy read or is it more of a leisure read? **A -** " Fast-paced leisure read. Many readers will lose sleep for a night or two.

Q - What sort of language does this writer use to amplify the points made? **A -** " Adult English laced with a generous helping of f-bombs.

Q - What age group is this suitable for? **A -** If this were a film it likely would be rated PG-17 for language and violence. The violence is not overly graphic, but it does draw a clear enough picture to stir one's senses.

Q - My biggest pleasure or disappointment? **A -** I can't really elaborate here without possibly divulging a spoiler, precisely what bothered me. Suffice it to say, there are additional books

coming...

For Jack Saxton, life is good; his step-father is head of Genico, the largest provider of "samps" (gen-engineered medicines to cure diseases and genetic disorders), and the gen-engineered artificial-human Synthates who perform all the distasteful or tedious tasks that keep his world running smoothly. Like his step-brother Phillip, Jack's only job is to enjoy life. For Phillip Saxton, the world would be better with his step-brother Jack. He lives a hard-partying life reminiscent of Gordon Gecko's "Wall Street" Wall Street (Insider Trading Edition). What he buys and sells is not stocks and businesses, but manufactured peopleâ "Synthatesâ "and modified biological samples. His immediate goal is to score enough cocaine to make it through the night; long-term, he wants to supplant Jack as the favored son in his father's eyes. Phillip's envy seems to have poisoned him, to the point where he reports Jack as a Synthate "passing as human," condemning his brother to die in the Games. Jack's life is about to spin out of control, his wife murdered, his status changed instantly from presumptive heir of Genico to slave. Then there's the Black Rain of the title, a hideous plague that killed or disabled "naturals," but to which the Synthates were immune. The Games that slay so many Synthates seem justified by the need to punish the slaves for their release of Black Rain: "For humans to exist, we must live within a society. And a society cannot function with the presence of extreme violence.

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