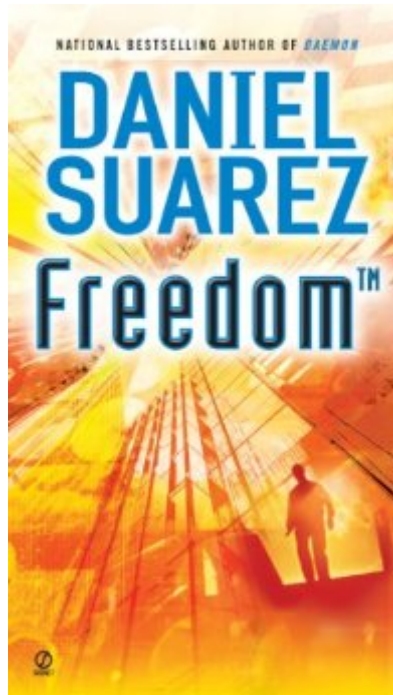


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Freedom (TM) (Daemon Book 2)



Synopsis

In his phenomenal debut, *Daemon*, Daniel Suarez introduced a terrifying vision of an unstoppable computer program unleashed on our world by a hi-tech wunderkind. But now, our world is *Daemon's* world "unless someone stops the program once and for all...The *Daemon* is in absolute control, using an expanded network of shadowy operatives to tear apart civilization and built it anew. Even as civil war breaks out in the American Midwest in a wave of nightmarish violence, former detective Pete Sebeck "the *Daemon's* most powerful, though reluctant, operative" must lead a small band of enlightened humans in a movement designed to protect the new world order. But the private armies of global business are preparing to crush the *Daemon* once and for all. In a world of shattered loyalties, collapsing societies, and seemingly endless betrayal, the only thing left worth fighting for may be nothing less than the freedom of all humankind. Also look for *CHANGE AGENT*, coming April 2017 from Daniel Suarez.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Freedom is Daniel Suarez's follow up to his 2008/2009 surprise best seller, *Daemon*. Last year I was blown away by *Daemon*. Suarez managed to write a compelling thriller around some big ideas.

I have been a huge fan of Michael Crichton for years but I always felt his characterizations were weak and the big ideas were shoe horned into a thriller plot. Suarez stays true to the big idea and manages to weave a realistic plot with fully fleshed out characters and situations. This isn't some made-for-movie screenplay, this is a fully realized thriller with deep ideas and a compelling story. I was sucked in from the first page and devoured the first book and left gasping at the end for the follow up. Freedom, just released, doesn't disappoint (except maybe I was hoping for a trilogy). Freedom is a different kind of book to Daemon, the plot continuation is smooth, but the atmosphere of Freedom is very different. While Daemon was a techno thriller, Freedom morphs into a hero's quest/mythological story. The technological ideas are still there and actually they are fully realized in Freedom. Suarez manages to flesh out the technological vision he alluded to in Daemon. The convergence of life and augmented reality are smoothly juxtaposed to provide a glimpse of a near future. Suarez is a technologist and it shows. His use of current technology to create his vision is accurate and realistic. He explores the implications of social network theory, augmented reality, game design and ad-hoc network topologies to form a backdrop for a dystopian future. Even his underlying message of governments gone amuck are well researched and realistic; if a little paranoid.

The sequel (or more correctly "conclusion") to Daemon is entertaining and exciting, but it has two problems that are very common to sequels, particularly in the sci-fi genre. First, in the process of expanding the scope of the story and showing the consequences of the first story, it loses one of the primary things that made the first book so compelling - the feeling of connection and relatability to the characters. Second, the author moves outside of his area of expertise, and it affects both the believability of the story and the easy flow of the writing. The Dune saga is a perfect example of the first kind of failure, if that's not too strong of a word. In the original novel Dune, you are personally invested in Paul's story because he is experiencing the same feelings in his situation as you would - being overwhelmed, amazed, excited, repulsed, etc. You create an emotional connection to the character because you recognize in his nature the same things that are in your own. However, by the time you get to the fourth book in the series, God Emperor of Dune, the story has moved to such a level of abstraction and - literally - galactic scope that it becomes difficult to personally care about the outcome. This book doesn't go to that extreme, but I did end up losing a lot of the emotional connection I had to the first part of the story in Daemon.

After reading both Daemon (book 1) and Freedom (book 2) I'm more convinced than ever that this

a) should have been a single book, and b) should have been edited much more critically. Freedom starts more or less where Daemon ended, and in some ways solves some of the insanely glaring problems of Daemon. In the first book there was no one to root for - the "good guys" were all mind-numbingly stupid, and the "bad guys" were murderous psychopaths. The only character who escaped either of these characterizations was double/triple agent, the completely bland "Jon Ross", and he was only notable for being completely neutral and dull, and therefore the only character you didn't dislike by the end of the book because he didn't really do anything. The sole female character from Daemon, who was first introduced as an intelligent woman but was quickly debased with stupidity, moon-eyed romance and bad judgment, was re-introduced in the sequel as a love-struck idiot who runs from high-powered, life or death, top-secret government meetings to weep in a bathroom stall in romantic angst over a man she barely knows. Her character stays that way for the remainder of the book. The rest of the characters were reintroduced as slightly different characters than we left them in Book 1, apparently from a severe course correction by the author who may have realized that there was no point to a Book 2 if the readers didn't care who lived or died.

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