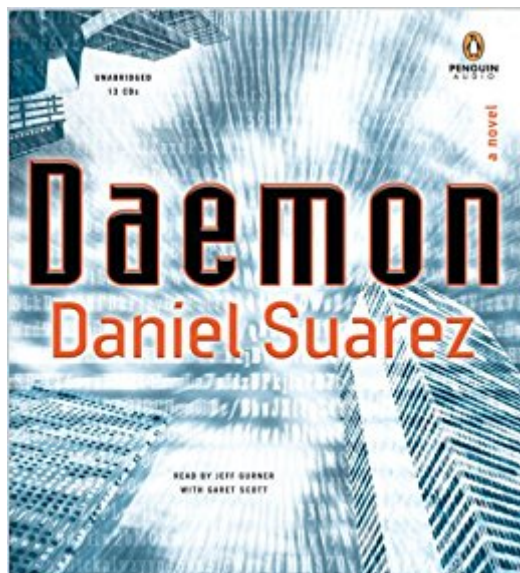


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# Daemon



## Synopsis

Daniel Suarez's New York Times bestselling debut high-tech thriller is "so frightening even the government has taken note" (Entertainment Weekly). Daemons: computer programs that silently run in the background, waiting for a specific event or time to execute. They power almost every service. They make our networked world possible. But they also make it vulnerable... When the obituary of legendary computer game architect Matthew Sobol appears online, a previously dormant daemon activates, initiating a chain of events that begins to unravel our interconnected world. This daemon reads news headlines, recruits human followers, and orders assassinations. With Sobol's secrets buried with him, and as new layers of his daemon are unleashed, it's up to Detective Peter Sebeck to stop a self-replicating virtual killer before it achieves its ultimate purpose—one that goes far beyond anything Sebeck could have imagined... --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Starred Review. Originally self-published, Suarez's riveting debut would be a perfect gift for a favorite computer geek or anyone who appreciates thrills, chills and cyber suspense. Gaming genius Matthew Sobol, the 34-year-old head of CyberStorm Entertainment, has just died of brain cancer, but death doesn't stop him from initiating an all-out Internet war against humanity. When the authorities investigate Sobol's mansion in Thousand Oaks, Calif., they find themselves under attack from his empty house, aided by an unmanned Hummer that tears into the cops with staggering ferocity. Sobol's weapon is a daemon, a kind of computer process that not only has taken over

many of the world's computer systems but also enlists the help of superintelligent human henchmen willing to carry out his diabolical plan. Complicated jargon abounds, but most complexities are reasonably explained. A final twist that runs counter to expectations will leave readers anxiously awaiting the promised sequel. (Jan.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

For now, Daniel Suarez will have to be content with the inevitable comparisons to Michael Crichton and Neal Stephenson; in the publishing world, there are certainly worse fates. To be sure, Suarez's ability in *Daemon* to push all the right buttons regarding technology and its potential for misuse suggests a writer with a bright future. If word-of-mouth publicity is any indication (there's already strong demand for the sequel, which is due in 2010), the rigors of self-publishing are already a distant memory for Suarez. *Daemon* is genre fiction meant to be devoured, not savored. "Henry James fans may shudder," the *Dallas Morning News* points out, "but the result is an almost perfect guilty-pleasure novel that passes briefly through a pulp-bound larval stage before morphing into the Big Action Movie it was meant to be." Copyright 2009 Bookmarks Publishing LLC --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The billionaire CEO of an online game company is dead. Brain cancer. But his death isn't the end, it is only the beginning. Online, "daemons" are automated computer programs that are waiting to read the headlines announcing CEO Matthew Sobol's passing. His obituary triggers programs that have infiltrated every corner of our society. Detective Pete Sebek is on the case, but soon he is over his head as the online world ushers in a new world order under the Daemon's control. Daniel Suarez's techno-thriller is a fast read with a large cast of characters. Some are merely plot devices, engineers added to give a real sense of the distributed work the Daemon requests of its human servants. Others are more significant, from Detective Sebek to the Daemon's primary mercenary to the cryptographer trying to bring it down. Those working for the government run the gambit from idealist to special forces to spook. Each character is well-developed with their own reasons and beliefs. Only "The Major" is a cookie-cutter character, but he divulges none of his past nor his mission in this book. A few prose issues and an occasional typo in the Kindle edition I read didn't break me out of the story as much as a few over-the-top scenes did. I could see this as an action movie, although a number of the technical details would need to be simplified for the silver screen. In

exploring the technologies of our modern world, and the degree to which everything is interrelated, this novel takes a frightening look at how computers can manipulate markets and how governments seek these powers for themselves. While the Daemon Task Force is trying to bring this system down, The Major ultimately wants to protect the Daemon and use it as a tool for the government. These conflicting goals ratchet up the tension through the book. I love a good techo-thriller, and I enjoy reading about hackers and spooks almost as much as the post-apocalypse. The book left a lot of open ends I presume will be answered in *\*Freedom\**, the sequel. I give *\*Daemon\** four stars, and will pick up *\*Freedom\** to keep reading in this world.

WOW. Here is a new author of the first rank. It is an astonishing achievement for a first-time author and we must all be grateful that the author, Daniel Suarez had the guts to initially self-publish this fantastic thriller. The technical details are superb but clearly conveyed to non-programmers. The authors background in high-tech consulting and online gaming provide all the reality we need. When the Daemon (autonomous, distributed software program) decides to target the corporate villains, who are secretly and successfully manipulating our world the action really ramps up. Suarez has worked enough with Fortune 1000 corporations to provide a convincing description of the villainy that is ready to be unleashed by both senior executives and the armies of corporate drones who make all this possible. These insights power Suarez's anger and put his story in overdrive with truly exciting scenes. As an ex management-consultant, I can confirm Daniel's views of our corporate masters. Ignore the reviewers' comments about a weak ending to this book. It is actually only part one and needs the reader to follow up with the logical conclusion ("*Freedom*"). Together they formed the best 'thriller' reading for my summer vacation in a long time.

I listened to this book from Audible rather than reading it, but HAD to buy the book, because I want to give it to a friend. This, in itself, is an indication of how much I enjoy *Daemon*, and it's concluding novel, *Freedom(TM)*. I'm not expert enough to say whether or not the main "scheme" is realistic, but it definitely seems possible. *Daemon* is a taut thriller, exploring the parallel concepts of cybersecurity, capitalism and freedom; wherein Matthew Sobol, the 'bad guy', is already dead, but the products of his mind may go on forever. Sobol's *Daemon*, enticing the disgruntled and disenfranchised (read the 99%) and using them as its pawns, hacks into and pwns the computer systems across the globe, threatening to bring our civilization to an end if its demands are not met.

Five stars are really not enough for a book like this. The plot and character development are not

outstanding, but the story idea is so original that it alone is worthy of a Hugo or Nebula award. There are plenty of science fiction scenarios about a computer taking over the world; this story explores the more realistic and plausible scenario of not an actual computer, not an actual artificial intelligence, but simply a cleverly written program that can infect the world's computers and take them over. It's also a story that makes you stop and think about how every aspect of our lives is now impacted by computerized technology, and how easy it is for rogue actors to control that technology and thus control us. If that happens, will we resist, or will we submit to the Daemon? Before you answer, consider the technology that controls your bank account, your medical and employment records, your very identity. You might be surprised at how quickly you surrender to the Beast.

Really good story! It is more like part one and the next book picks right up to wrap up the story. Being an on line gamer I loved its ties into that world! I can truly say this story blew me away! It made me see that there is a way to save the world from human greed and avarice! It would be a violent start but all revolutions start with violence! It is high tech and some bits lost me a touch till I looked up terms or asked my husband to translate from "geek to English" but with an open mind and some analysis I truly loved the concept! I have now enjoyed all of Daniel Suarez's Novels and truly look forward to the next one!

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Daemon Plague Daemon (Warhammer: The Orfeo Trilogy, Book 2)

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