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# The Term Sheet: A Startup Thriller Novel



## Synopsis

What if the government claimed that terrorists were using your startup? Would you happily hand over the keys to your kingdom without a second thought? Or would you defend your customer's privacy no matter the cost? \_\_\_\_\_

David Alexander always dreamed of starting a company. But when his startup takes off, it doesn't turn out the way he hoped. Money disappears. Friendships are tested. And that's just the beginning. David's thrown into this world and his adventures spiral him into a dark hole of terrorist plots, government espionage, and classified information. It turns into more of a nightmare than a dream. One wrong decision could put the country in jeopardy, collapse David's company, or even cost him his life. \_\_\_\_\_

THE TERM SHEET is a fast-paced technothriller about entrepreneurship, startups, encryption, and the delicate balance between national security and individual privacy. Its complex characters explore thought-provoking questions about the role of technology in an ever-changing society. Step into the high-stakes game played by today's technology innovators, who push the envelope and risk it all. Get ready; this thrilling book gives you a taste of what startups are really like.

\_\_\_\_\_ David Alexander, a young programmer in Portland, Oregon, loathed his job. Computer programming had always come naturally, but being an employee never suited him. So he tried entrepreneurship instead. After making a series of embarrassing blunders, David finally hit on a startup idea that stuck: encrypted chat. Sure there were alternatives, but as Edward Snowden has shown us, most of them (willingly or unwillingly) have backdoors for spies and bad guys. A new approach made David's app one of the most secure options out there, which caught the attention of many people, including Shawn Douglas from the Secret Service. Shawn Douglas worked with eight different presidents, preventing twenty assassination attempts, forty-three terrorist plots, and two bullets. When he was promoted to a desk job overseeing and organizing travel, he picked up on a cryptic email thread that hinted at a threat to the President's life. In a race to unravel the conspiracy, Shawn and David both have to make some difficult decisions. Will Shawn stop the terrorists in time? Will David be able to navigate his startup out of a crisis and keep his entrepreneurial dream alive? Or will fate deal them both a crushing hand? Read the book to find out.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

David Alexander is a stereotypical millennial geek. He excels at computer programming, but can't (and doesn't want to) adjust to corporate life. He wants to be the next Steve Jobs or Mark Zuckerberg -- develop a start-up that will make him rich fast. After a few failed attempts which have nearly cost him his girlfriend and his best friend, he may have finally hit gold. He's developed a program that will encrypt social media (chats, twitters and e-mails) from prying government eyes. His product gains the attention of several venture capitalists, one of whom has ties to terrorists, who would greatly benefit from such secure communications. Enter Shawn Douglas, Secret Service agent now promoted to desk duty. He has been following cryptic e-mails that hint at a possible attempt to assassinate the President. Unfortunately, none of his superiors believe the threat is worth checking out. So Shawn continues to investigate on his own and comes upon David's program. Seeing the possibilities for the terrorists to be able to communicate securely, he meets with David to ask for his help. David, all stubborn pride and youthful ideology, basically tells Shawn to take a hike, that individual privacy trumps government snooping. As these two butt heads, the terrorists continue with their plan. Who will prevail and at what cost? This story develops the characters skillfully but

quickly. With David, the reader can embrace his dream of independent success while wanting to smack him "upside the head" for his selfishness and stubbornness. With Shawn, the reader empathizes with a man of action and experience being shackled to a desk and having to deal with superiors more interested in advancing their own careers than listening to someone who has been in the front lines.

This review is based on a free copy received from the author but reflects my own opinion. David Alexander is a "dreamer" who is looking for a way to generate enough passive income to be able to live comfortably without a day job. Even though he is a talented programmer who could easily land a decent paying job, he seems to do reckless things on a whim. That includes burning through all his credit cards to purchase a web-site that sells jelly fish tanks. This angers David's girlfriend and David's obsession seems to leave him no time to visit his sister, who is in a medical facility with a debilitating disease. Down to his last cent, David comes up with a new way of doing encryption which involves creating a lot of false electronic traffic to mask the actual data that is transmitted. His product gets the attention of Sean, a Secret Service agent, who is worried about terrorists being able to send messages with the new technology. The bad guys have already tried one attempt with some success and Sean is sensing something big coming. David must decide what is important to him as his girlfriend wants to leave him, his best friend (Andrew) is upset with him, the government is after him and some bad guys may also soon be after him. This book could have been a whole lot better. It seems portions of the book move along incredibly slow. Other times the author fails to give enough background information or describes action that is happening very tersely. The reader wants to know a lot more about Andrew and how he grew up and what he is really thinking. Sean is another character that could have been developed a lot more. We only have a brief introduction to him as someone who goes through the exact same routine everyday on his way to work.

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