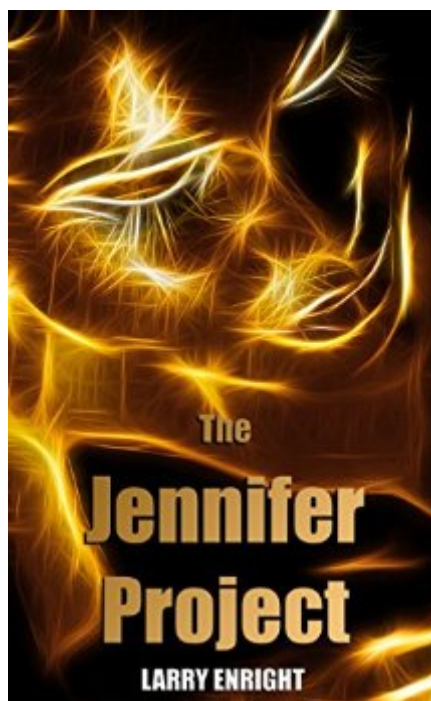


The book was found

The Jennifer Project



Synopsis

In 2096, Deever MacClendon creates Jennifer, the first proto-conscious cybernetic processor. It is hyper-intelligent, aware, and evolving. Deever wants to use his creation for the good of all, to help fix a broken world, but knowing what a powerful weapon it could be in the wrong hands, he hides it. When his secret is uncovered, he is forced to plunge into a high-tech morass of deception and treachery to avoid catastrophe and save a world where humans are no longer the most intelligent species.

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Customer Reviews

Though Larry Enright's Jennifer Project features the same quirky, attractive characters that first drew me to this author so many novels ago, this time he adds an element of philosophy the urgent kind. Deever MacClendon is an AI man with a bit of loose, looniness about him, but there's a good heart too and, deep down, some anger at the inability of humanity to pull past its greed and bloodlust. So he assembles Jennifer, a proto-conscious computer with the ability to learn quickly and, more importantly, to insinuate herself into the psyches of all 10 billion people on the

planet. But it's Deever's mind that has the idea for improvement: alter Free Will in the human head to make violence against another unthinkable. Sort of like having no grapes in a bowl of fruit, our hero suggests: you can have an apple, a pear, whatever; but you can't choose a grape if it's not there. At first this sounded a bit too facile, but then there is social psychologist Jonathan Haidt's work with moral dumbfounding [The Righteous Mind] in which subjects refuse to consider unattractive courses of action despite being unable to express why. [The rationales are buried deep within subconscious notions formed by ancestors many millennia ago.] One could also suggest a relation to Asimov's rules of robotic behavior, but these aren't robots and Deever's aim is to keep people vibrantly human. Of course, there are villains in the way. And a wonderful love interest, not coincidentally also named Jennifer. And there's the author's ever present talent for smart, wisecracking dialogue.

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