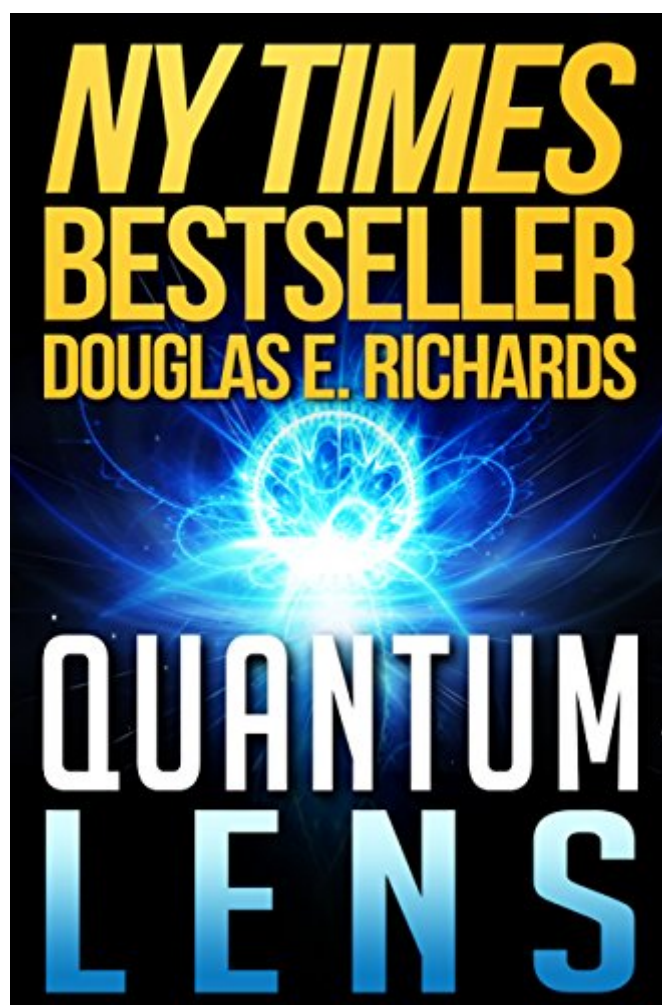


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Quantum Lens



Synopsis

A mind-blowing new technothriller from the NY Times bestselling author whose books have been downloaded over a million times. Omar Haddad is a brutal jihadist in Syria who appears to be capable of supernatural feats. But is Haddad divine, as he claims? Is he a gifted magician? Or is he making use of a stunning scientific breakthrough? And what, exactly, is keeping him from unleashing the global apocalypse he's so eager to bring about? Brennan Craft, a quirky quantum physics genius, has the answers, and the US military is desperate to capture him. But when Craft risks everything to recruit a Black Ops researcher named Alyssa Aronson, it becomes clear he's playing a treacherous game of his own. Hunted by both the military and Haddad, Craft and Alyssa race to find a way to keep the unstoppable jihadist in check. But there may not be any way. And Alyssa soon fears that Craft is becoming an even bigger threat to the world than Omar Haddad. . . . Quantum Lens is a smart, roller-coaster-ride of a thriller, packed with intriguing ideas that readers will be contemplating long after they've read the last page. "Richards is a worthy successor to Michael Crichton." (SF Book.com) "Richards is a tremendous new talent" (Stephen Coonts) who can "keep you turning the pages all night long" (Douglas Preston)
Near Future Science Fiction Thrillers by Douglas E. Richards
WIRED (Wired 1) AMPED (Wired 2) MIND'S EYE (Nick Hall 1) BRAINWEB (Nick Hall 2) MIND WAR (Nick Hall 3) -- Coming in Oct/Nov, 2016
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SPLIT SECOND
GAME CHANGER
Kids Science Fiction Thrillers (9 and up, enjoyed by kids and adults alike)
TRAPPED (Prometheus Project 1) CAPTURED (Prometheus Project 2) STRANDED (Prometheus Project 3)
OUT OF THIS WORLD
THE DEVIL'S SWORD

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Customer Reviews

In short this is a book about a brilliant and charming polymath who can tap into quantum woo to summon comic book levels of superhero powers. With the help of his secret government scientist girlfriend, and his Steve Jobs-esque billionaire best buddy, he pits his might against an evil jihadist bigot bent on killing all the infidels. Not kidding. Anyway, sounds like there'd be a lot of mindless escapist action, doesn't there? Nope. What you get is long-winded exposition of the painfully obvious, fringe and pseudoscience presented as undisputed fact, and the benefits of the free market and supply-side economics. That in itself doesn't make the book bad. What makes the book terrible is the author trots out these tired and well-worn arguments like they're fresh out of the oven. All this has the practical effect of making page upon page of dialogue read thusly: Brennan: Behold as I ignore your alleged intelligence and give you a simpleton's explanation of my pseudoscience/theology/political ideology! Alyssa: Wow! But what about my token strawman rebuttal? Brennan: Silly child, let me throw some quotes at you... Alyssa: Label my mind blown! Now make sweet sweet love to me!

An okay story, marred by an extended section of sermonizing about how the perfect world would be. Remove government departments like (!!) the FDA, cut government "handouts" to increase self-respect, provide free energy, make every individual all-powerful, with watchers at the top to weed out those who become egomaniacal psychopaths. It goes on and on, for page after page. Also, the book is practically an ad for another book, The God Theory. It quotes this book frequently and extensively, to the point where it just becomes ridiculous. It refers to this book dozens of times, and the lead characters read it as part of the story and become more enlightened. Enough already! This author has numerous other books that don't suffer from these flaws and are better stories too. Look there.

Finally, a writer who appeals to those who enjoy nonfiction as much as fiction and who thinks a geek genius is the right choice for saving the world while using cutting edge science to do it. Bravo! A really different kind of high action novel. I had it finished by day's end, and I was more energized than exhausted. Gave me something to think about.

The science was so flawed and misleading that I had to quit reading the book about 1/3 of the way in. I know, I know, there are a lot of great works of science fiction that stretch a scientific concept, work on unproven hypotheses, or just make up what sounds like science-based tech in the far future as a plot device. However, Quantum Lens happens in the modern era and the author seems to almost willfully misrepresent Quantum Physics. If you are writing modern day science fiction then you had better make it seem real. And even if you don't expect all of your audience to understand Quantum Physics, you do owe it to your work and your readers to try to get it right. The author fails very hard on these last points. He takes concepts that are fringe science or even pseudo-science and presents them as well-accepted theory. Some of this is the author picking the weirdest, most unsupported and unlikely but perhaps possible interpretation of a phenomenon in physics and then presenting that as the accepted theory. At other times it is outright falsehoods. I don't know if this is on purpose to simply sound "sciency" for the sake of the plot, or if the author is really that uninformed about physics. Reading on through the first few 'mistakes' I quickly began to feel like I had left the realm of science fiction and instead was at one of those gem shows where vendors try to sell you a quantum talisman to protect your health. I know this is fiction, but any fiction needs to be believable, and good fiction can teach you truths. This does neither. Mr. Richards needs to spend a bit more time studying his subject matter, and perhaps should take a pause to decide how he wants to present science to young, impressionable readers.

Douglas Richards books have always been five star reads and true to form he certainly didn't disappoint with Quantum Lens. I love science and I especially like pondering the weird world of a quantum universe and the zero point energy that surrounds us. Though the story is fiction there is enough real fact in this book to set me pondering anew. The 'subtraction theory of creation and of all that we see and experience' parts of the book were new to me and rather jaw dropping. It made perfect sense, and being based on the scientific facts of the electromagnetic spectrum, color palletes, etc. makes the theory work even better. Get this book if you love a good scientific thriller with plenty of good guys, and plenty of very deadly bad guys. You won't be sorry.

This was almost a 5 star. Douglas is steadily improving his craft. His writing is superb This kept me turning the pages. I loved the way he handled the plot and characters. Plus he didn't overdue descriptions. This is something a lot of writers have trouble getting the correct balance. Richards does it very well. The only two minor points that kept me from giving it a 5 star were the political rant and philosophizing. (I also disagree with the conclusion that observation creates matter, this is an understandable mistake, but I would highly recommend Andrew Thomas's "Hidden In Plain Sight" series for a better understanding of the uncertainty principle)

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