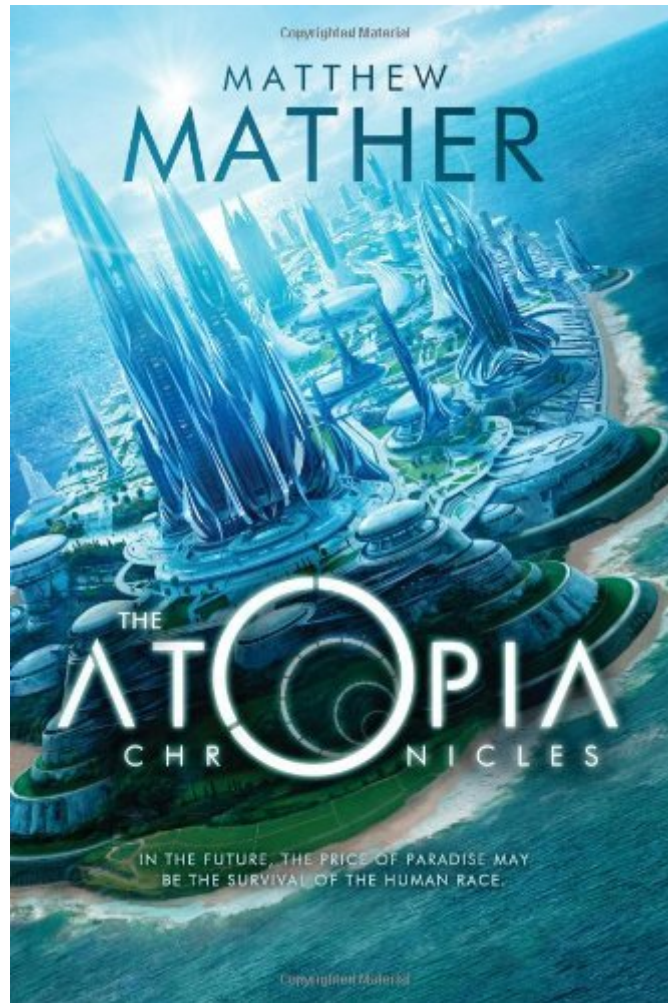


The book was found

The Atopia Chronicles (Atopia Series Book 1)



Synopsis

What could be worse than letting billions die? In the near future, to escape the crush and clutter of a packed and polluted Earth, the world's elite flock to Atopia, an enormous corporate-owned artificial island in the Pacific Ocean. It is there that Dr. Patricia Killiam rushes to perfect the ultimate in virtual reality: a program to save the ravaged Earth from mankind's insatiable appetite for natural resources. The Atopia Chronicles (Book 1 of the Atopia series) is the tale of mankind's dark slide across the apocalypse as humans and machines merge in a world teetering on the brink of ecological ruin.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I would go into detail but you guys really need to not know anything beforehand that will tip you off to what is going on... it wouldn't be as much fun, a great read yes, but not all it should be! So I am going spoiler free... Also, just as a side note, if you think you know what is going on, you don't...Atopia is about a free-state (not unlike the underwater setting of Rapture of the Bio-Shock gaming franchise) in which Science and Technology are the way, the breakthroughs are great, the living is perfect. You want a holiday from work? Why not, Wake up in Australia, go to Paris to eat

breakfast, see the sights of London while you read the news and still have time to get the kids off to school, grab a coffee and get to work at 9. Want to know if you're ready for kids? Got that covered too, how does a virtual child sound? Ever get sick of the boss piling on the work and can't find enough time for the family? Heh, that's nothing, how would you like to be in ten places at once! This and more is waiting in the floating world of tomorrow in Atopia. Atopia is the land of the free thinking and high tech lifestyle we all wish we had, beautiful, practical and smart. But it has its dark side, its thorns, and they are big enough to tear the world to shreds. Atopia is a pure sci-fi in the vein of the great classics such as "Do androids dream of Electronic Sheep" and "Neuromancer". It is pure hard-core, no crap, unadulterated science fiction that any sci-fi fan should be reading right now...

I, like many others, picked up a copy of this book based on the recommendation of Hugh Howey, the author of the Wool saga. As a side note, the Wool series is the tightest, freshest entry into the science fiction genre in many years. I sincerely believe we will look back and discuss the impact of Wool like the impact of Dune. So, when an author of this stature recommends a book to me, I am willing to give it a shot. I feel like Mr. Mather is trying to be a jack of all trades, and in the process has spread his narrative rather thin. The premise of Atopia is that around 2050-2075 or so, the population of earth is 10 billion, and multiple wars for resources have devastated the planet, and wealthy groups of private citizens have built floating enclaves in the middle of the ocean. As another reviewer pointed out, it's a bit like Bioshock. Within a few chapters, the author has started spinning his elaborate story of distributed consciousness and "metaverses" created by nanobots inside of people which allow them to somehow make use of the concept of neuroplasticity and "fragmentation of consciousness" to essentially create alternate realities. I try to read at least 30 science fiction books a year, and I can say that this book takes a fresh and unique premise, but kind of never gets off the ground. The story is some mixture of Atlas Shrugged by Ayn Rand, Neuromancer by William Gibson, and Catch 22 by Joseph Heller. Firstly, as a physician, the medical jargon and discussions are a bunch of nonsense. The premise is so convoluted that I think I would have greatly benefited from at least 2-3 introductory chapters of exposition. Instead, each chapter is told from a different perspective, with about 8 rotating narratives.

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