



The Silicon Man

Charles Platt

Download now

Read Online ➞

The Silicon Man

Charles Platt

The Silicon Man Charles Platt

The Silicon Man has been endorsed by William Gibson as "A plausible, well-crafted narrative exploring cyberspace in a wholly new and very refreshing way".

What is the price of immortality? On the track of high-tech black-market weapons, FBI Agent James Bayley has stumbled on a top-secret project called LifeScan. A renegade team of government scientist, sponsored by an aging billionaire, has found a way to store the human mind inside a computer. Those scanned will be immortals, freed from the weaknesses of human flesh, virtual gods in a universe of their own creation. But godhood has a terrible price. To gain immortality, you must be willing to die.

The Silicon Man Details

Date : Published February 1st 1991 by Spectra

ISBN : 9780553289503

Author : Charles Platt

Format : Mass Market Paperback 253 pages

Genre : Science Fiction, Fiction, Cyberpunk, Novels



[Download The Silicon Man ...pdf](#)



[Read Online The Silicon Man ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The Silicon Man Charles Platt

From Reader Review The Silicon Man for online ebook

MamaCarrie says

"A plausible, well-crafted narrative exploring cyberspace in a wholly new and very refreshing way." - William Gibson

I am engaged and thinking about the downloading of our consciousnesses in a new light.

Also, this one is somewhat staged in the San Jose/Santa Cruz area, so neat to try to figure out where on the coast the characters are at in this post-depression and post-epidemic future.

Simon says

Starts off as an SF thriller exploring concepts of virtual reality and the computability of consciousness and takes that to see how an anarcho-capitalist utopia might be realised.

Karen says

Considering that the book is 26 years old, the story was great and the characters believable.

Ashley Walker says

An influential story feeling out the dream of being able to download a human intelligence into a computer where provided no one in the real world pulls the plug one could become immortal.

I would have liked to see the story continue to investigate the consequences of such technology on society. Platt hints at economic chaos and the end of the big corporate system but I think this is just wishful thinking and his ideas are very sketchy. He also fails to tackle the question of where this leaves the human urge to procreate.

However, human beings are not known for their need to get to grips with deep existential reality and generally just get on with the day to day stuff adapting very quickly to whatever comes along so from that point of view the Silicon Man in the story is very human indeed.

DogWithABook says

The concepts are reasonably interesting, and the set-up leads you to expect a tech-heavy, hard sci-fi noir. Unfortunately, the book feels dated and its delivery falls flat through 2-d stereotyped characters and unexplored threads. The ending is pitifully weak, not to mention abrupt and (to my mind) nonsensical.

I totally agree with the reviewer below who references Deus Ex as a more considered and realistic

perspective on transhumanism.

Sean Randall says

A very good work for its time, totally gripped me and I was quite desperate to finish. Very much enjoyed.

Erica Dietlein says

Where did this book go? Why did it's super successful first printing go completely ignored? It's well done, intriguing sci-fi, but also... will maketh one very uncomfortable, I think. Very. In an introspective and speculative sort of way. I will disagree with almost everything I see the author saying with this book: I DON'T LIKE IT, but it was good, and it was provocative, as it should be, and as it was intended. I tip my hat to you, sir. (The end of the first chapter was still unnecessary. And, uh, weird, and just no.)

Isabel (kittiwake) says

?When FBI agent James Bayley decided to do a solo investigation how the scientific Life Scan project has been allowed to eat up billions of pounds of funding over 30 years while apparently being a total failure, he finds that he has bitten off more than he can chew. This is an interesting early novel about the possibilities of transferring the human mind into cyberspace and the consequences for both individuals and society. Unfortunately, once the setting moves from L.A. into cyberspace it seems to peter off as soon as it has described the first infomorph's acclimatisation to its new environment. I could have done with more conflict between the 'infomorphs', some resolution of Yumi's story, and a stronger ending.

Nick says

Predicted some of the cool / scary things that computers today can do 25 years ago. Interesting or scary now... cool when I was a young adult.

Brian R. Mcdonald says

Go reference on p.19.

Eran says

A very well thought-out idea of the singularity. It deals nicely with both sides of the issue of being uploaded to become an AI of sorts. The greatness and power of it, along with the challenge to humanity (as a group and as a trait of being). Great sci-fi with some detective theme thrown in for good measure. The characters

are interesting and all too human.

Also, it is very credible and holds well technologically, despite being written in the early 90's, before the internet, mobile phones, and AI applications became so prevalent.

Simon says

I don't remember anything about this book!

Jennie says

Entertaining read, with a bit of a twist at the end. Most frustrating thing about it? The number of grammatical errors.

Lisa (Harmonybites) says

This is one of those novels about the wonders of cyberspace. Published in 1991 it's set in 2030, in a near future that has become stagnant and has taken limits to the future for granted. Enter James Bayley, FBI agent who stumbles onto a top secret project called Lifescan: an attempt to create a cyber-immortality--a silicon man. The novel plays very much like a technothriller by Michael Crichton or Dean Koontz, only taking place in the future rather than in a contemporary setting. It's well-written and flowing with appealing, or at least distinctive, if not particularly complex, characterizations.

I grabbed three novels by Platt because I saw him listed as a Prometheus Award nominee--for *Free World* and *Silicon Man*. The first I tried, *Twilight of the City*, I found lacking--in fact didn't even finish that one. I did complete the next, *Planet of the Voles*. I found the ideas in that one more interesting, but found the ending less than satisfying. I rated both those books two to two and a half stars. *Silicon Man* is by far the most enjoyable, not a keeper perhaps or greatly memorable, but entertaining. In fact, I really like what Platt did with the antagonist--he's not a simple villain as it first appears--nor does he wind up misunderstood or redeemed; it's more complicated than that. *The Silicon Man* is published decades later than the two others I read so it might be Platt got better over the years and his later novels worth seeking out.
