



## Dark Genius

*H. Peter Alesso*

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TV's 'Elementary' meets 'The Big Bang Theory' in this fast-paced techno-thriller

After his troubled past, Andrew Lawrence hoped for a fresh start at MIT where he met bright and attractive Emma Franklin. But before they could begin, their world turned into a lie. Everything was torn away from them and they were embroiled in an international fraud investigation involving quantum computer hacking and murder. Dodging the FBI while hiding from cyber-terrorists, they were forced into the underworld of the darknet, anonymous encryption, and AI finance.

While trying to throw off the ghosts of his haunted past, Lawrence had to run faster and faster to evade the shadowy forces after him. Despite a troubled relationship, the ego of rivals, and the threat of cyber-terrorists, he persevered on his quest to redeem himself.

## Dark Genius Details

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Author : H. Peter Alesso

Format : ebook 268 pages

Genre : Suspense, Science Fiction, Mystery, Thriller

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## From Reader Review Dark Genius for online ebook

### Vivian Allen says

#### Dark Genius

I got bogged down in the physics details, but liked the characters so completed the book. This author shows promise.

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### Paul says

Couldn't finish it. Halfway through and you don't get a sense of what the book is about. It just plods on with a lot of excess words

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### Victoria Haugen says

Fast paced and full of action, Dark Genius is full of fun & surprises. It's a great story and done by a great narrator, I really enjoyed it. So full of intrigue, action and suspense, I almost dropped my coffee! :)

Some of the tech stuff went right over my head, but I'm 50 now and a lot of things do that ;) I recommend this for anyone looking for an exciting thriller!

Buckle your seat belts and hold on, it's going to be one helluva ride. Great listen!

I was given this free review copy audiobook at my request and have voluntarily left this review.

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### Amber Machado says

Great story and plot but a little too much technical lingo for my taste but a good story

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### Thomas Henry says

Well written interesting storyline and ending. I would like to see more about these characters

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### Rick Molitor says

#### Complicated thriller

I thoroughly enjoyed reading this thriller. It was intense and kept you guessing as to who was doing what. The characters were interesting and their interaction was good. It got a bit too technical at times but was an enjoyable read.

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### **Carol Keen says**

This is an awesome read with enough science for me to totally sink myself into it! I really appreciate that about this book! It's fascinating and not fluffy. With a Sci-Fi feel to it, this book was immersive for me. From the dark web to the twists and turns, I give this book 5 stars.

My copy came from Net Galley as an ARC. My review is my own, left of my own free choosing.

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### **Laurie Bailey says**

#### **Captivating twists**

Story and mystery were captivating, but the apparent lack of a good proofreader left me wondering how someone with this much knowledge could not have done a better job serving it up to the public...

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### **Clinton Sites says**

#### **A fast paced and captivating read**

I consider this a light read - the characters are interesting, the interactions they have with each other realistic but the obfuscating physics discussions distracting. The underlying storyline has enough twists and turns that should satisfy any reader of mysteries and is set in a plausible enough world to accept any distractions.

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### **Jocelyne says**

This was my first H. Peter Alesso's book and this won't be the last! Wow! This technothriller was really entertaining, fast-paced and action packed and I loved it! The ending was also great! This was my first listen to Jennifer Groberg's voice. She has the perfect voice for this story and I really love her voice. I really enjoyed my listening and I totally recommend this audiobook. I'm looking forward for more books written by this author and narrated by this narrator. I received this free review copy audiobook at my request and I have voluntarily left this review.

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### **Ashley Hadden says**

Dark Genius by H. Peter Alesso was a great read. Andrew is looking to have a fresh start when he meets

Emma. Unfortunately things go wrong before they can really begin. I enjoyed reading this story and enjoyed reading their troubling relationship.

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## **Scott says**

I am a sucker for books in the techno-thriller genre because this is my area of expertise. This is the main reason I picked up and listened to “Dark Genius” written by H. Peter Alesso. This book is the author’s second book series released and be aware, this is the first released book in the series and the only one currently available in audiobook format; at the time of this review. The audiobook edition was well narrated by Jennifer Groberg, who has quite a few books under her belt on Audible. Although the book has a decent story and plot, I found there were too many holes in the author’s research and implementation of technology making it less realistic than I would have preferred. For those who are less technical and like an exciting action filled tale, I recommend you give the book a listen. If you are a fan of conspiracies, clandestine hackers, and advanced quantum computing with a distinctive AI (artificial intelligence), you may find the book enjoyable. For me, it was good, but I was hoping it would have been great. A few changes, edits and some more research into the many technologies used might have done the trick elevating this book above many others in a crowded genre.

The book opened with a good prologue and ramped up the action rather quickly. I also enjoyed that the book took place in the Boston area, which I’m quite familiar with, and that it was often between classmates from both Harvard and MIT. There was quite a bit of the well-known banter between the students of both campuses as each of them feel they are better than others. The story at times felt predictable and the conversations seemed forced. There was a lot of action, but little depth and substance when I step back and think about the story. The sentence structure and dialogues had a feeling of being younger adult (YA) and at times even childish. This for me felt out of character for these geniuses as I would have thought their vocabulary would have been more advanced and complex. Even some of the conversations between the professors of the campus and the students felt immature at times.

Any modern-day technology thriller needs to have either a quantum computer or artificial intelligence; or both. This story had both with a good portion of the action and activity occurring around CERN and the two Boston campuses. There is some great discussion and topics involving statistics, probability, and research which one expects from a book in this genre. However, the areas that are more focused on computer attackers and their activity felt weak and less realistic. I do not expect one-hundred percent realism in these subject areas, but I would like to have something that feels right and still has a sense of mystery. Something like the TV series Mr. Robot, but this story had too many technological issues for me to fully enjoy it. Systems were easily compromised and their passwords stolen with very little effort. As much as this seems the case by reading newspapers or news media, the actual effort is quite tedious and time consuming. Add to this, one of the most modern and state of the art quantum computers requiring me to suspend belief to accept its use and ability. At times, I felt the author would toss in a few computer terms just to make the book feel more realistic, yet for those in the know, it often had the opposite effect.

I did like the areas where the author has some conversations involving physics, but this may have been my lack of knowledge making it seem realistic. The book felt more like a serious take on the movie comedy “Real Genius” released in 1985. The characters lacked a level of depth I would have expected from those in their field of expertise. There was some light romance which also did not feel as smooth or natural. The movement between the dark web and the campus activity was not as smooth of a transition as I would have expected and the events from the bad people from the dark web were experts in cleaning up their tracks by

simply deleting logs. In the real world, things are much more complex than this and even more complicated when speaking of a quantum computer. For me, it came down to how much I could believe and what I knew was fantasy or simply misunderstood technology by the author.

The audiobook's narration was performed quite well, and I do not recall any issues with the audio or any background artifacts while listening. The narrator's voice was crisp and clean, and she did a decent job of giving each of the characters unique personalities via their voice. The only thing I would have preferred would have been to have a male voice the main character. I understand this is simply a personal preference and many may enjoy the book as it is currently narrated.

For parents and younger readers, not only does the book contain some light scenes of romance, but it also has a few descriptive sexual scenes that may be inappropriate for younger readers. Even though the writing style is more simplistic which could be comprehended by younger readers, the mature subject matter is something that I would only recommend for mature readers.

In summary, the story was average and overall enjoyable. I did have a few issues, as stated above, around the use of technology and the writing style being more YA, but for those who may not care about these items, the story is not bad. I liked the premise and the direction, but the issues with researching and my knowledge of technology made it difficult for me to truly love it. If this type of book sounds interesting, please give it a try as I know it can take a few books for an author to find his stride.

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### **Agnes Muscoreil says**

Thanks to NetGalley for this most interesting read. I have to admit a lot of it was over my head, but the basic story kept me interested. I never figured it out, but did have my suspicions.

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### **Dawn Finnemore says**

I found the book to be very interesting. Loved the plot and characters. The only thing I would have done differently is to not add so much technical jargon that was the only part that slowed me down. The ending was a good surprise. I would recommend this book highly. All in all I loved it. Good work.

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### **Alexandra Phillips says**

Andrew Lawrence returns to MIT to continue his research and re-conciliate with professor Prost. On his first day on campus he runs into Emma Franklin with whom he will become involved not only erotically but scientifically, too. Prost is fuming for his return and he is obsessed that Lawrence will ruin him and his plans. So though he accepts him in his team he burdens him with tons of work leaving no time for his research. Will Lawrence stand all this burden - workload and psychological pressure? Things will become more complicated when Lawrence will be accused for being involved in a cyber attack to the CERN quantum system as a hacker. Is he indeed innocent? Will he be able to prove his innocence?

An amazing fast-paced sci-fi thriller around the scientific community. I cannot but comment positively how

plausible it was the story and the world around which the plot was evolved. The author really captured the competition between universities and professors in the academic research field, the exploitation of Phd candidates, even the world of computer science in the field of algorithms and artificial intelligence.

I was impressed how true it all seemed. Great research on the area by the author and great depiction of this world into a fictional story. I assume if you are studying, working or simply you are acquainted with computer science and physics you will enjoy this book.

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