

The Postmortal Drew Magary

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finalist for the philip k dick and arthur c clarke awards the gripping first novel by drew magary author of the hike and the night the lights went out an exciting page turner drew magary is an excellent writer the postmortal is even more terrifying than zombie apocalypse mark frauenfelder boing boing john farrell is about to get the cure old age can never kill him now the only problem is everything else still can imagine a near future where a cure for aging is discovered and after much political and moral debate made available to people worldwide immortality however comes with its own unique problems including evil green people government euthanasia programs a disturbing new religious cult and other horrors witty eerie and full of humanity the postmortal is an unforgettable thriller that envisions a pre apocalyptic world so real that it is completely terrifying

throughout history mankind has struggled to reconcile itself with the inescapability of its own mortality this book explores the themes of immortality and survivalism in contemporary culture shedding light on the varied and ingenious ways in which humans and human societies aspire to confront and deal with death or even seek to outlive it as it were bringing together theoretical and empirical work from internationally acclaimed scholars across a range of disciplines postmortal society offers studies of the strategies adopted and means available in modern society for trying to cheat death or prolong life the status of the dead in the modern western world the effects of beliefs that address the terror of death in other areas of life the immortalisation of celebrities the veneration of the dead in virtual worlds symbolic immortality through work the implications of understanding immortality in chemical neuronal terms and the apparent paradox of our greater reverence for the dead in increasingly secular capitalist societies a fascinating collection of studies that explore humanity's attempts to deal with its own mortality in the modern age this book will

appeal to sociologists anthropologists philosophers and scholars of cultural studies with interests in death and dying

a panoramic overview of biotechnologies that can endlessly boost human capabilities and the drastic changes these superhuman traits could trigger biotechnology is moving fast in the coming decades advanced pharmaceuticals bioelectronics and genetic interventions will be used not only to heal the sick but to boost human physical and mental performance to unprecedented levels people will have access to pills that make them stronger and faster informatic devices will interface seamlessly with the human brain and epigenetic modification may allow people to reshape their own physical and mental identities at will until recently such major technological watersheds like the development of metal tools or the industrialization of manufacturing came about incrementally over centuries or longer people and social systems had time to adapt they gradually developed new values norms and habits to accommodate the transformed material conditions but contemporary society is dangerously unprepared for the dramatic changes it is about to experience down this road on which it is already advancing at an accelerating pace the results will no doubt be mixed people will live longer healthier lives will fine tune their own thought processes and will generate staggeringly complex and subtle forms of knowledge and insight but these technologies also threaten to widen the rift between rich and poor to generate new forms of social and economic division and to force people to engage in constant cycles of upgrades and boosts merely to keep up individuals who boost their traits beyond a certain threshold may acquire such extreme capabilities that they will no longer be recognized as unambiguously human in this important and timely book prize winning historian michael bess provides a clear nontechnical overview of cutting edge biotechnology and paints a vivid portrait of a near future society in which bioenhancement has become a part of everyday life he surveys the ethical questions raised by the enhancement enterprise and explores the space for human agency in dealing with the challenges that these technologies will present headed your way over the coming decades new biotechnologies that can powerfully alter your body and mind the possibilities are tantalizing rejuvenation therapies offering much longer lives 160 and even beyond in full vigor and mental acuity cognitive enhancement through chemical or bioelectronic means the rough equivalent of doubling or tripling iq scores epigenetic tools for altering some of your genetically influenced traits at any point in your lifetime body shape athletic ability intelligence personality bioelectronic devices for modulating your own brain processes including your pleasure centers a potentially non stop high direct control of machines by thought and perhaps direct communication with other people brain to brain a new dimension of sharing and intimacy but some of the potential consequences are also alarming a growing rift between the biologically enhanced and those who can t afford such modifications a constant cycle of upgrades and boosts as the bar of normal rises ever higher humans 95 humans xp humans 8 the fragmentation of humankind into rival bioenhancement clusters a gradually blurring boundary between person and product extreme forms of self modification with some individuals no longer recognized as unambiguously human

biomedical research is changing the both the format and the functions of human beings very soon the human race will be faced with a choice do we join in with the enhancement or not make way for the superhumans looks at how far this technology has come and what

aims and ambitions it has from robotic implants that restore sight to the blind to performance enhancing drugs that build muscles improve concentration and maintain erections bio enhancement has already made massive advances humans have already developed the technology to transmit thoughts and actions brain to brain using only a computer interface by the time our grandchildren are born they will be presented with the option to significantly alter and redesign their bodies make way for the superhumans is the only book that poses the questions that need answering now suggesting real practical ways of dealing with this technology before it reaches a point where it can no longer be controlled

focusing on the contemporary period this book brings together critical age studies and contemporary science fiction to establish the centrality of age and ageing in dystopian speculative and science fiction imaginaries analysing texts from europe north america and south asia as well as television programmes and films the contributions range from essays which establish genre based trends in the representation of age and ageing to very focused studies of particular texts and concerns as a whole the volume probes the relationship between speculative science fiction and our understanding of what it is to be a human in time the time of our own lives and the times of both the past and the future

across more than 30 chapters spanning migration queerness and climate change this handbook captures how the interdisciplinary and intersectional endeavor of age ing studies has shaped contemporary literary and film studies in the early 21st century the literary study of age and ageing in its cultural context has come of age it has come to supplement and challenge a public discourse on ageing seen mainly as a political and demographic problem in many countries of the world following a tripartite structure it looks first at literary and film genres and how they have been shaped by knowledge about age and ageing incorporating both narrative genres as well as poetry drama and imagery the second section includes chapters on key themes and concepts in age ing studies with examples from film and literature the third section brings together case studies focussing on individual artists national traditions and global ageing containing original contributions by pioneers in the field as well as new scholars from across the globe it brings together current scholarship on ageing in literary and film studies and offers new directions and perspectives

the hike just works it's like early good chuck palahniuk magary underhands a twist in at the end that hits you like a sharp jab at the bell it's just that good npr.org a page turner inventive funny quietly profound and touching boingboing from the author of the night the lights went out and the postmortal a fantasy saga unlike any you've read before weaving elements of folk tales and video games into a riveting unforgettable adventure of what a man will endure to return to his family when ben a suburban family man takes a business trip to rural pennsylvania he decides to spend the afternoon before his dinner meeting on a short hike once he sets out into the woods behind his hotel he quickly comes to realize that the path he has chosen cannot be given up easily with no choice but to move forward ben finds himself falling deeper and deeper into a world of man eating giants bizarre demons and colossal insects on a quest of epic life or death proportions ben finds help comes in some of the most unexpected forms including a profane crustacean

and a variety of magical objects tools and potions desperate to return to his family ben is determined to track down the producer the creator of the world in which he is being held hostage and the only one who can free him from the path at once bitingly funny and emotionally absorbing magary s novel is a remarkably unique addition to the contemporary fantasy genre one that draws as easily from the world of classic folk tales as it does from video games in the hike magary takes readers on a daring odyssey away from our day to day grind and transports them into an enthralling world propelled by heart imagination and survival

it s a doozie set in a science fictional universe where climate change is fixed but people get killed via teleportation a young woman named anna huff has to navigate her adolescence and a murder mystery it has a little bit of all the genres you love in combinations you ve never imagined and it s easily the funniest thing we ve read this year so far gq drew magary s first posthumous novel is so good it s about big tech weird futures growing up and intriguingly for us the absurdity of on demand global travel roads and kingdoms when the corporate monolith portsys brought porting to the masses ceo emilia kirsch and her son jason accomplished what every other startup company had failed to deliver they really did change the world they reversed climate change they created a multitrillion dollar industry out of thin air curing economic woes across the globe they made it so that anyone could be anywhere simply by touching a screen including the man who murdered sarah huff now sarah s 17 year old sister anna is determined to hunt the bastard down but there are a few problems she doesn t know who the killer is or where in the world he may be at any given moment also she s stuck at prestigious druskin academy where portphones are banned and any student who attempts to port off campus is immediately expelled it gets stickier anna s also fallen in love with her dazzling new roommate who just so happens to be emilia kirsch s daughter lara the dean of students wants anna dead perhaps literally and she has only two friends to confide in one a reckless alcoholic and the other a bizarre fussbudget oh and now she also needs to find lara who has mysteriously disappeared from campus from the author of the postmortal and the hike comes his most deliriously entertaining novel yet point b is the story of one clever and occasionally determined young woman seeking both love and vengeance but hardly ready for those two missions to intersect it takes you to vietnam hollywood singapore tokyo inland mexico oxford the maldives cuba the coast of northeast australia and all points beyond you will find yourself plunged into a borderless chaotic oddly miraculous world that is ruled by a single bloodless corporation and by a family determined to keep it that way but portsys never expected anna huff and anna huff never expected love to make her this daring

a fascinating darkly funny comeback story of learning to live with a broken mind after a near fatal traumatic brain injury from the acclaimed author of the hike drew magary has produced a remarkable account of his journey one that is filled with terror tenderness beauty and grace david grann bestselling author of killers of the flower moon drew magary fan favorite defector and former deadspin columnist is known for his acerbic takes and his surprisingly nuanced chronicling of his own life but in the night the lights went out he finds himself far out of his depths on the night of the 2018 deadspin awards he suffered a mysterious fall that caused him to smash his head so hard on a cement floor that he cracked his skull in three places and suffered a catastrophic brain hemorrhage for two

weeks he remained in a coma the world was gone to him and him to it in his long recovery from his injury including understanding what his family and friends went through as he lay there dying coming to terms with his now permanent disabilities and trying to find some lesson in this cosmic accident he leaned on the one sure thing that he knows and that didn't leave him his writing drew takes a deep dive into what it meant to be a bystander to his own death and figuring out who this new drew is a drew that doesn't walk as well doesn't taste or smell or see or hear as well and a drew that is often failing as a husband and a father as he bounces between grumpiness irritability and existential fury but what's a good comeback story without heartbreak eager to get back what he lost drew experiences an awakening of a whole other kind in this incredibly funny medically illuminating and heartfelt memoir

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