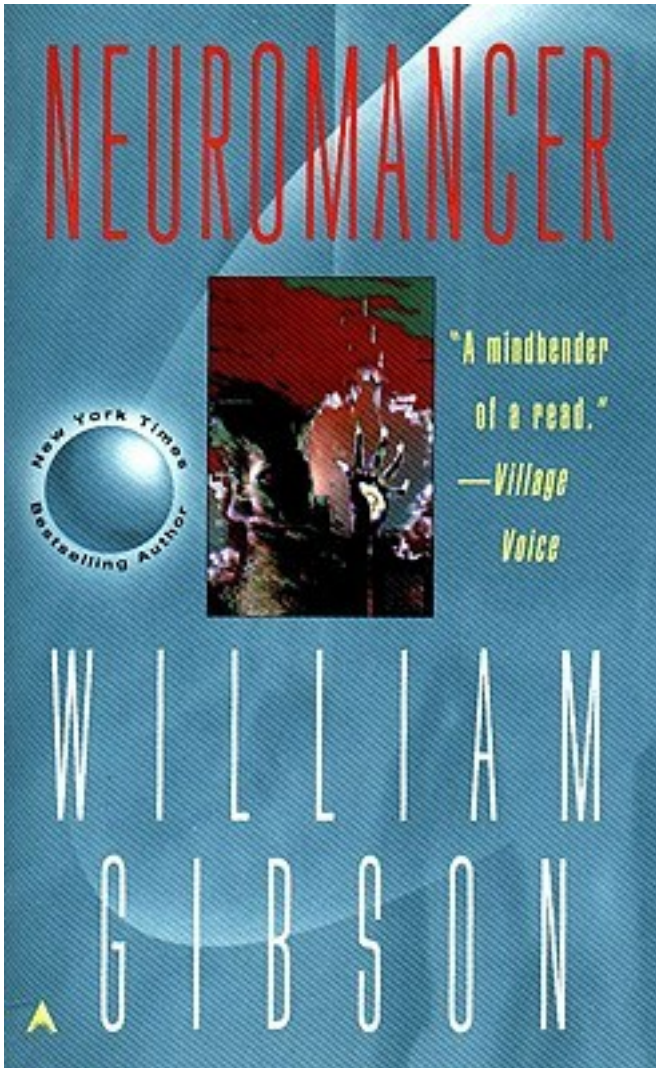

William Gibson

Neuromancer (Sprawl #1)



Title: Neuromancer (Sprawl #1)

Author: William Gibson

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Language: English

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Description

In celebration of its ten-year anniversary, cyberpunk classic Neuromancer comes to hardcover, with an all-new introduction by the author. Freshly imagined, compellingly detailed and chilling in its implications.--New York Times. The first novel to win SF's triple crown--the Hugo, the Nebula, and Philip K. Dick awards.--Time.

Insightful reviews

mark monday: *the following is a **Reverse Exquisite Corpse Review** brought to you by the good folks at [Sci Fi Aficionados](#).*

I first read Neuromancer about 20 years ago. Writing with strokes instead of details is an interesting way to describe Gibson's writing. That's how I feel about some of the performance art I saw in my art school days. The strokes were far too numerous. I found it impossible to tell what was detail, what was colour, what was clue. I get bored with things being laid out to me, writers that paint words with strokes appeal to me more than writers who lay everything out. A writing style is like food, different people have different tastes. It's not that I don't like Neuromancer, just that it leaves me entirely cold. One of my professors said that if you are used to narrative writers such as Stephen King, you would have a particularly hard time with Gibson's writing style. I loved the imagery that opens up the novel, Neuromancer is one of those books that you have to reread to catch everything.

Just finished rereading Neuromancer, even better then I remembered. *i'm curious if hollywood will go the Battle Royale route and keep all the graphic kid violence, or if they'll somehow soften it.* It will be very interesting to see how they deal with the graphic violence when the movie comes out next year. I'll be reading the follow ups at some point.

I was just thinking the other day how kids in high school for the most part have always have had the world wide web around and as such, they're both a little "warmer" or "more human". It's like eating junk food.

I usually love books like Neuromancer, but it just didn't work for me. I don't get it. I think it's my mood. I do enjoy complex books but I think Neuromancer was just out of my reach. I would say a person of the current internet generation would have written the book coldly and less philosophically. I also had trouble understanding some of the goings in the novel, which is partly a result of my being slow, lol, but I think that Gibson is playing with perception on purpose and leaving some subtle hints along the way.

[\(view spoiler\)](#)

I can imagine those guys in the most sexually deviant scenes. That's why Neuromancer is so great. I like books that make me work for it.

[\(view spoiler\)](#)

That was my biggest problem with the book: trying to figure out why the characters were acting the way they did. I need to reread this book again to get all the nuances.

[\(view spoiler\)](#)

Would someone please explain to me whose side Riviera was on? I'm so confused... I think he stole plot elements from his earlier work... Gibson is obviously doing that and able to draw from noir aesthetics largely to differentiate himself from more, should I say space oriented scifi stories, towards gritty urban stories that focus on modern technology, but also show how modern cities still create some of the same concerns that existed when someone like Chandler was writing.

I think it's too dreamy and stream of conscious for me. While reading this book, I feel like I'm hanging on by my fingertips, just on the edge of really understanding what's going on. I appreciate that it is a groundbreaking book and the authors creativity but it was still a struggle to 'get into' it in the first half. The book certainly improved as it went on but it wasn't as amazing to me as others have found it.

The women are generic, Linda and Molly, maybe symptomatic of the culture of the world where there's no love and everyone is a whore for someone. It's a bit bizarre though because they're both pretty unique, Linda the sad burnout and Molly has freakin' implanted sunglasses and auto-nails! i'm like WHAT? i do not get this book at all, what's going on, it really is challenging me with every sentence!

I am about halfway through and feel like everytime I read it's just an adrenaline rush... This book was like a beacon in the bleak and shallow suburbia I instinctually loathed and was desperately searching for a way out of. I was entranced from the first sentence to the last; *dark but also excitedly looking forward as well*, It's amazing how much imagery Gibson can pack into one sentence.

One of the things that stands out for me early on in the novel is its construction and the way the various plot threads came together, but the constant dystopian world view, was terribly depressing. Surely our science and tech. can bring us more than greed and misery. This is quite dark! Too dark for my tastes... not a lot of love for this book from me, I'm afraid.

I love the first line to this book.

I'm going to try to start it tonight, too. I'm starting this tonight. I started this last night. I've been wanting to read this one for some time now.

dystopian but not necessarily cyberpunk.

Neuromancer has been called the definitive, benchmark novel of the cyberpunk sub-genre. Gibson takes his influences from *Escape from New York*, Anthony Burgess and from Phillip K. Dick, among others, but then goes to a wholly different level. It can even be said that Gibson, who in turn heavily influenced the producers of *The Matrix*, is a bridge between the older 60s post-modernist dystopian science fiction with the more modern, computer driven, angst ridden world weariness that has represented artists since the 80s. *Neuromancer* defined the genre and I could hardly go a few pages without noticing how it had influenced literature and film since.

As a book, this was excellent, I could not put it down. Gibson creates an edge, a tension that exists throughout the narrative that grabs the reader and won't let him go. Gibson is the literary successor to Phillip K. Dick, an observer who does not skip ahead to a distant dystopian rebirth, but instead chronicles the ugly fall itself.



E.B.: Wow. What a terrible book.

First, let me just say that I read for entertainment value. Anything else that happens is gravy. That being said- the biggest reason this book is so awful is that Gibson's characters are completely hollow. Gibson makes it up as he goes along. He'll introduce a character, barely describe him and then 10 chapters later toss in another description. As if to say "Oh, yeah did I mention his hands were chainsaws? Yeah, they were totally chainsaws. Cool right?" The reason this is such a headache is that once your mind's eye has cast the characters, as shallow as they are, all of a sudden there's a new dimension tossed in. He doesn't just do this with characters, he does it with locations as well. Never giving you a chance to really place the characters in a setting. Other than "a dark city street." I mean, Try a little harder Gibson. I'm not a writer, but isn't that a sign of BAD WRITING?

The second reason this book is so bad, is Gibson's writing "style". I hate writing "styles". Stop trying to show off and just tell me a story. The "style" makes Neuromancer a very difficult book to read. I'd read 2 or 3 chapters and literally have no idea what was going on. Gibson will write a whole page with four lines of dialog and the rest of the page will describe absolutely nothing. Reminds me of the Mark Twain quote: "Don't say the old lady screamed. Bring her on and let her scream."

Now- for the positives. Gibson clearly just wanted to write a string of action sequences and techno-babel. Being a computer nerd myself, I found all of that interesting. Towards the end the characters actually have dialog with each other and as things come to a head it actually gets entertaining here and there. Another huge plus is that this book is considered the first true Cyberpunk work and has been heavily mined by Hollywood, Anime and pop-culture in general. Coining phrases like Matrix, Cyberspace, etc. For me, this was probably the first book I ever read just to say I read it. I don't regret it, but believe me, I'm glad it's over because I literally forced myself through it. Just wait for the movie. It'll probably make more sense.

Mike: The notice "cyberspace" didn't exist until eventually William Gibson coined the word in his brief story, "Burning Chrome," released in Omni journal in 1982. He extensively utilized the time period in "Johnny Mnemonic," yes, the resource of the Johnny Depp movie. And in Johnny Mnemonic, Gibson brought an superior woman highway samurai named Molly Millions. She reappears as one of many major characters in "Neuromancer" in 1984. And it was once with the e-book of his debut novel that using the observe "cyberspace" went viral. Gibson gained the Hugo, Nebula, and the Phillip K. Dick Award for "Neuromancer." Oddly enough, Gibson composed his groundbreaking dystopian novel on a typewriter, no longer a qwerty keyboard. the area large internet was once nearly a decade away. At a few aspect within the future, hacker Henry Case has devoted the final word mistake. He has stolen from his employers. As punishment, he's chemically injected to avoid him from ever with the ability to entry the digital global of cyberspace. Down and out, Case grinds out a depressing dwelling within the underworld of Chiba urban in Japan. it really is there the place he's recruited by way of a shady personality named Armitage who bargains to pay for instances cure, permitting him to re-enter the Matrix. there is a catch, of course. Case needs to supply his prone as a hacker to Armitage who's by no means transparent on precisely what task he wishes Case to do. Gibson has tagged society easily as "the Sprawl." it's a disaffected, dystopian world. Greed is the first motivator for all human action. And our on-line world is the motor vehicle in which to acquire no matter what you want, if you've the cash to do it. Armitage does. Or, anyone in the back of Armitage

does. Think 1982's motion picture "Bladerunner," in response to Phillip K. Dick's "Do Androids Dream of Electrical Sheep," and you've got the appropriate photo of the area Gibson created. In fact, Gibson used to be a couple of 3rd of how via "Neuromancer" whilst "Bladerunner" premiered. The movie's liberate nearly made Gibson pack in his typewriter. He felt he have been scooped. Today we loosely check with our on-line world as what we all know because the Internet. yet cyberspace, in Gibson's production is an international in a position to ideal digital reality. Computer deck cowboys like Case can jack into the matrix and "be" wherever he must be. With the turn of a switch, he can adventure the particular sensory observations of his sidekick, and for the process the novel, his lover, Molly Millions. Molly has been implanted with a simstic. At one point, realizing that Case is "riding" with her, Molly teasingly circles the nipple of 1 of her breasts. Now, that is entertainment--at least for Case. Gibson's production is masterful. but one is difficult pressed to discover someone in "Neuromancer" a personality that you simply very easily identify with--ellipsis additional to prevent finishing a sentence with a preposition. *ahem* Is "Neuromancer" a needs to read? Absolutely. Does it go away you hungry for more? Well, no, except you breathlessly wait for the discharge of the subsequent Hugo, Nebula, Dick, Campbell, or Locus award. Nihilism has been performed prior to and better. a bit Dostoevsky will do the trick each time.

Monk: This e-book is likely one of the fairly few 5-Star books i will rate. On a scale of one to 5, one potential keep away from this book. 5 is whatever that alterations your existence when you learn it. Gibson's Neuromancer is a distinct five. Neuromancer is the tale of a burned-out hacker named Case. Having played the single unforgivable crime of his shadowy enterprise - stealing from his corporation - he has actually been burned out. A Russian mycotoxin has destroyed his fearful sytem so accutely that he's now not capable of make the man-machine interface essential to his specific model of hacking. he is provided a moment likelihood although via a mysterious organization with much more strange motives. The activity is multifaceted and difficult, however the fixer Armitage makes all of Case's desires come real while he reverses the wear and tear performed to his physique and units him down the trail of cyber-crime again. The genuine ranking 5 stuff comes from sources. the 1st is the main obvious: style. i've got but to encounter one other writer who can convey this actual form of surroundings alive. Gibson virtually invented cyberpunk fiction whilst he wrote this novel. learn a pair pages and you may come to appreciate the visible reward of phrases Gibson has. The second, extra refined reason behind the 5 is that it is going over a truly attention-grabbing element with a big character, an AI process named Wintermute that attracts Armitage's strings. 'What does Wintermute want?' Case asks at one point. His useless pal Paulie (a character recording of an extended lifeless hacker) answers, 'Real intent problem, with an AI. now not human, see?' Reading that once you are a child in highschool will blow your mind. Opens up a few perspective. Anyone trying to find a great novel in a global quite a few a long time out from tomorrow, full of useless men, AIs and future-noir crime may still supply this one an exceptional as soon as over. i have already learn it six or seven times.

Szplug: In hindsight, apparently Neuromancer was once a triumph of fashion over substance, a truth which would cross many ways in explaining its enduring relevance as an ur-text of contemporary (science) fiction: that specific caliber serving in meta, maybe paradoxical style by means of either constructing a development that used to be to develop into a growing number of discernible whereas but commenting on what used to be and, extra impressively, that which

might prevalently come to be. on the time I learn this, though, such artsy-fartsy thinking about was once the furthest factor from my mind, what with the instant sensation being not anything yet captivating immersion in Gibson's gritty-but-flashy, drug-adrenalized, surgically-enhanced and bodysuit-gladiatorialized imaginative and prescient of a destiny in which a substantial part of any shadowy adept's existence may be spent in the illimitable confines of digital existence. Singular touches upload definitely to the story: Chiba urban and its tricks of a Japan hyper-refulgent in the muddy tidal bores of the Mississippi Delta; the Razor-Girl bodyguards and their mixed essence of sexual aggression and emancipatory predation; the Cold-War limned Russian presence as an impregnable digital citadel to be breached by means of neo-American ingenuity; the cerebrally- and sinisterly-limned ICE as an digital countermeasure software-hybrid and Case's prestige as a community intruder punitively scarred and barred from doing what he either excels at and requires; and the heritage hum of home-lab more suitable and improvised methamphetamines to either gasoline the tale and abrade it with sandpaper edges. If the entire certainly lands up more than its part parts, these components were hugely imitated considering the fact that Neuromancer used to be initially published, whereas the entire is of that singularly-perched transitional perfection that has hardly been learned since, together with in next works through Gibson himself.

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