



Crux: Nexus Arc Book 2

By Ramez Naam

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Crux: Nexus Arc Book 2 By Ramez Naam

Finalist for the 2014 Prometheus Award.

Six months have passed since the release of Nexus 5. The world is a different, more dangerous place.

In the United States, the terrorists – or freedom fighters – of the Post-Human Liberation Front use Nexus to turn men and women into human time bombs aimed at the President and his allies. In Washington DC, a government scientist, secretly addicted to Nexus, uncovers more than he wants to know about the forces behind the assassinations, and finds himself in a maze with no way out.

In Thailand, Samantha Cataranes has found peace and contentment with a group of children born with Nexus in their brains. But when forces threaten to tear her new family apart, Sam will stop at absolutely nothing to protect the ones she holds dear.

In Vietnam, Kade and Feng are on the run from bounty hunters seeking the price on Kade's head, from the CIA, and from forces that want to use the back door Kade has built into Nexus 5. Kade knows he must stop the terrorists misusing Nexus before they ignite a global war between human and posthuman. But to do so, he'll need to stay alive and ahead of his pursuers.

And in Shanghai, a posthuman child named Ling Shu will go to dangerous and explosive lengths to free her uploaded mother from the grip of Chinese authorities.

The first blows in the war between human and posthuman have been struck. The world will never be the same.

File Under: Science Fiction [Stage 2 | Terrorist or Freedom Fighter? | Mind Games | Upgrading...]

From the Trade Paperback edition.

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Editorial Review

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Naam's follow-up to his sterling debut, *Nexus* (2013), continues the story of Kaden Lane, creator of a revolutionary mind-linking software called Nexus. Set about six months after the first novel, this one is at least as action-packed, but with its political commentary and dystopian elements ratcheted to higher levels. The author briskly catches us up with the characters introduced in *Nexus*; Kade is on the run, trying to find his friends Ilya and Rangan, who are being held captive by the American government; Su-Yong, the Chinese expert on transhumanism, exists now as a "software being," her mind uploaded to a computer after the death of her body; and the agents of the ERD (Emergent Risks Directorate) are desperate to find the source of Nexus and to eliminate the software once and for all. Meanwhile, the Post-Human Liberation Front is using Nexus to turn ordinary people into assassins, threatening to throw the world's governments into chaos. The book would have benefited from a "previously on . . ." -style prologue to remind readers of the story and world introduced in *Nexus*; those unfamiliar with that book will be utterly lost here (especially when it comes to the software itself). Those who've read the first book, though, should have no trouble picking up where they left off. A strong, exciting, and intellectually stimulating sequel. --David Pitt

Review

A strong, exciting, and intellectually stimulating sequel.

--David Pitt, Booklist

Praise for the *Nexus* series:

"Good. Scary good."

- *Wired*

"Provocative... A double-edged vision of the post-human."

- *The Wall Street Journal*

"A lightning bolt of a novel, with a sense of awe missing from a lot of current fiction."

- *Ars Technica*

"Starred Review. Naam turns in a stellar performance in his debut SF novel... What matters here is the remarkable scope and narrative power of the story."

- *Booklist*

"A superbly plotted high-tension technothriller ... full of delicious, thoughtful moral ambiguity ... a hell of a read."

- *Cory Doctorow*

"A gripping piece of near future speculation... all the grit and pace of the Bourne films."

- *Alastair Reynolds*, author of *Revelation Space*

"A sharp, chilling look at our likely future."

- *Charles Stross*, author of *Singularity Sky* and *Halting State*

"The most brilliant hard SF thriller I've read in years. Reminds me of Michael Crichton at his best."

- Brenda Cooper, author of The Creative Fire

"A rich cast of characters...the action scenes are crisp, the glimpses of future tech and culture are mesmerizing."

- Publishers Weekly

About the Author

Ramez Naam is a professional technologist, and was involved in the development of Microsoft Internet Explorer and Outlook. He holds a seat on the advisory board of the Institute for Accelerating Change, is a member of the World Future Society, a Senior Associate of the Foresight Institute, and a fellow of the Institute for Ethics and Emerging Technologies.

His non-fiction book More Than Human won the H.G. Wells Award.

His novels has been nominated for the Kitscie Award for Best Debut, the Prometheus Award, and the Arthur C. Clarke Award. He is a 2014 nominee for the John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer.

From the Trade Paperback edition.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Joan Stauffer:

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Roger Lindsey:

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Courtney Osteen:

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