



To Hold Infinity

John Meaney

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Against a seething backdrop of social unrest and corruption, a young woman finds herself in a desperate bid to clear her son's name, a struggle that brings her into direct conflict with a malevolent force.

To Hold Infinity Details

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Author : John Meaney

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Quinn says

John Meaney creates a spectacular technical world of Fulgor where humans are "upraised" to interface with machines and each other. However the "upraise" is limited to those of a higher class strata, leaving the world rife with class struggle. This is the backdrop for the two protagonists, Yoshiko and her adult son Tetsuo, off-worlders trying to navigate this new society while working through their own personal crisis and trying to catch an "upraised" serial killer. This book is filled with technical jargon and interesting technology that is not spoon-fed, it challenges you as you read which I thoroughly enjoyed. Of course, I wasn't thrilled with the serial killer plot line, but the world and technology Meaney creates makes it worth while. Plus Yoshiko is a bad-ass!

Ryun says

I'm always excited to get a new book from Pyr, because as of yet, they haven't let me down. I've stumbled up against a couple of books lately that have utterly failed BOOKGASM's 100-page test – that is, I made myself read the first 100 pages, but the quality just wasn't there. John Meaney's TO HOLD INFINITY – originally published overseas in the late '90s – is the antithesis of this.

Once you get past the fairly horrible cover (more on that later), TO HOLD INFINITY is a snapshot of a stunningly well-realized future that grabs hold and doesn't let go.

More: <http://www.bookgasm.com/reviews/sci-f...>

Alterstuart says

Awesome novel. Great protagonist, memorable setting, antagonist and martial arts.

bluetyson says

isbn,original

Paul says

Boring science fiction. About the mother of a computer programmer on another world who has gone missing. Lots of head implants and bad XML-like code fragments.

Simon says

I read this because I had met John Meaney at the 2014 Eastercon in Glasgow where he was Guest of Honour and liked his personal style. I have put off actually getting a copy of one of his books because I didn't want to be disappointed in books which may not measure up to the man. In fact this is a excellent first novel which goes into detail (in some minor places perhaps too much) of what trans-humanism may be like and how it would impact against the existing base humans in a transhuman lead society. There is an interesting mix of nano technology and bio-tech with some brain programming thrown in throughout. It has a hunt for a lost son, a voyage of discovery (for both main characters) a serial killer, interesting side and supporting characters, all of who are filled out and none are ciphers. In fact you could even say that there were a voyage of discoveries for the main, fairly elderly, very strong and capable female lead who also manages to show how vulnerable people can be which confronted with unexpected events (such as a mugging). I felt that it moved a bit into fantasy towards the end of the book which took the edge off of the hard tech novel for me, but that's probably just me. I recommend it and I will be reading his later novels soon.

Rob Markley says

The author is the brother to the actor who played Miles O'Brien in Startrek but this is nonetheless top quality scifi that stands on its own right without celebrity endorsement... although I dare say it helped to get it published

Raj says

I'd never read John Meaney until he was guest of honour at Satellite 4 (the 2014 Eastercon), where I attended a few panels/talks/interview that he did and was very impressed with the man. I found several of his books, including this one (which he very kindly signed for me in the bar, later), cheap in the dealers' room and it was the first out of the (newly enlarged) book pile after the con.

This was quite a fun space opera, with interesting stuff about transhumanism and what augmentation means, especially if it can be applied to a society unequally. Tetsuo Sunadomari is an immigrant to the planet Fulgar from Earth, and is struggling to keep up with the cybernetically enhanced upper class of the world, the Luculentae. He discovers something that he doesn't quite understand and suddenly finds himself on the run, into the unterraformed wastes of the planet, accused of murder. Meanwhile, his mother, Yoshiko, is coming to Fulgar to try and meet her son, while still grieving over the death of her husband. She gets thrown into the search for her son, as well as local politics and a plot that could affect Fulgar society forever.

That plot summary barely covers the bones of the book. Yoshiko is a great protagonist -- much moreso, in my opinion, than her son -- and it's rare these days to find an older woman to be the focus of a book in this way. She's also interesting for her effect on other people, the ability to get people working with her and on her side, but without manipulating them in any way.

The technology of the Luculentae is interesting, as they implant neural connections to their world-wide information network (the 'Skein'), but the focus is on what this means for the human condition, and the sharp divide between the upper-class Luculentae, who have access to this technology, and the rest of the

inhabitants. The way that this elite can communicate, sharing not just text and voice, but building multimedia messages in the most basic sense of the word: messages that include senses of smell, touch and taste as much as sight and sound.

In the midst of all this, there is Yoshiko, trying to understand this world she's fallen into while also trying to find out what happened to her son, and dodge the maniacal serial killer who is currently stalking Luculentae society.

A very strong first novel, and I look forward to reading the other Meaney books that I picked up at the same time.

Nikki Balzer says

while I struggled to grasp some of the ideas initially, I found it hard to put this book down. I hope there is another one in this series.
