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The Atopia Chronicles (Atopia Series Book 1)

MATTHEW MATHER

THE ATOPIA CHRONICLES

IN THE FUTURE, THE PRICE OF PARADISE MAY BE THE SURVIVAL OF THE HUMAN RACE.

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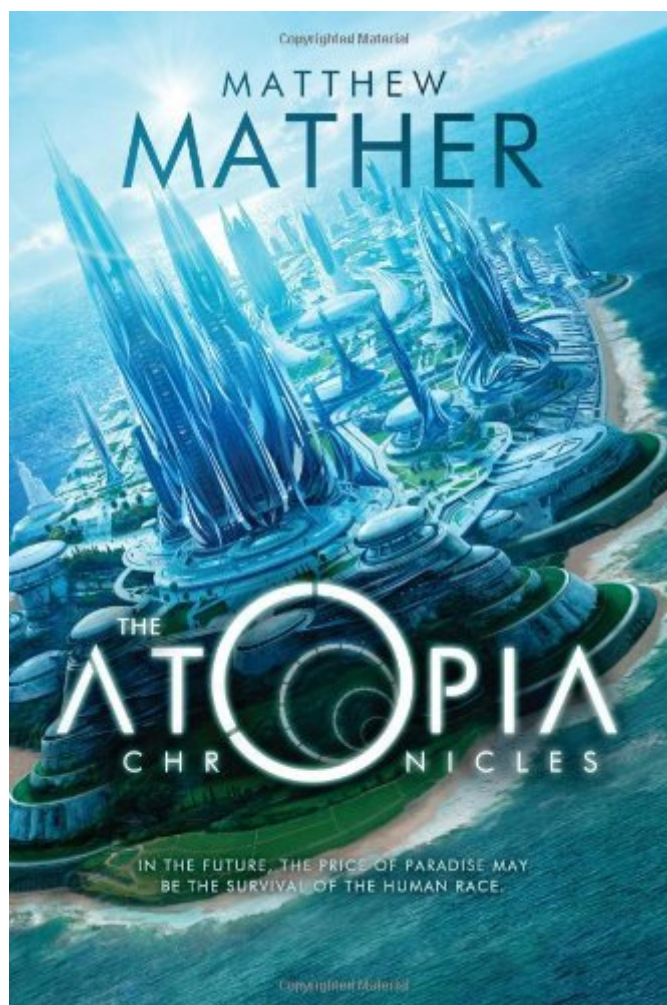
Synopsis

What could be worse than letting billions die?In the near future, to escape the crush and clutter of a packed and polluted Earth, the world's elite flock to Atopia, an enormous corporate-owned artificial island in the Pacific Ocean. It is there that Dr. Patricia Killiam rushes to perfect the ultimate in virtual reality: a program to save the ravaged Earth from mankind's insatiable appetite for natural resources.Now in development as a new TV series, Â The Atopia ChroniclesÂ (Book 1 of the Atopia series) is the tale of mankind's dark slide across the apocalypse as humans and machines merge in a world teetering on the brink of ecological ruin.

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Customer Reviews

The Atopia Chronicles is quite a story. The Atopia world is amazing Matthew Mather has outdone himself in creating this world. This book is different from anything else I've read and I couldn't help but get engrossed into the story. I can not wait to start reading Dystopia.

I think this book and the concept of it is brilliant. Was some of it beyond my understanding? Sure

was. The story arch confused me some but it did not hid the fact that this work is one of the most interesting I have ever read.

I read this book because of the overwhelmingly good reviews. In the beginning, I found it fascinating. The author's imaginative ideas made the novel's universe feel very much like a Blade Runner and Minority Report kind of setting and feel. On the one hand, the author does a pretty thorough exploration of what might happen if human sensory perception could be altered by intercepting and altering sensory signals before they reach the brain. The human brain would believe that it is seeing, hearing, smelling , seeing, and feeling things that are not really there. Further, individuals could decide for themselves what reality they wanted to experience. This is a clever and fascinating idea. The vehicle for this altered sensory perception is nanobot type of technology that is ingested into the body in vast numbers (like inhaling a cloud of dust) and which attaches itself in key points in the body's neuro-pathways to intercept sensory signals. The nanobots are technological, and there is an outside controlling mechanism, a vast computer network, that networks with the nanobots, so they can perform their functions. This computer network must be powerful enough to control the nanobots for an entire society, so that all can enjoy the benefits, and further, so that many people can enjoy the same altered reality at the same time. This is the basis for the additional idea of a shared pseudo-consciousness. So, in other words, everyone in the society can not only experience the reality they individually choose; they can also experience a shared reality, with one, or with many others as the desire calls for.It is a really fascinating idea! Kudos to the author for coming up with it. It still gives me something to think about! The novel's down-side, as an opinion only, is that the idea was carried out by a relatively weak writer. There were numerous places where I cringed, thinking it was amateurish.There were also places where the argument and logical thinking were flawed (it is not important enough to me personally to spend the time going back now to find them--unless the publisher would like to pay me a research fee. lol.). When that happens, I lose respect for the author and the story line, which is supposed to be supported by that point.In the end, bravo to the author for the fundamental ideas. Bravo for the occasional brilliant scenes. And, reluctantly!, thumbs down for an essentially boring, draggy, and logically flawed read.

I love novels that are different, not just the story itself, but in the telling. I especially loved how this novel tells parallel stories in a row and then ties them together in the end. It keeps you guessing, but also overlaps enough to keep track of what is going on. Very well written. I think the matter of fact

way many technologies are described makes them more realistic because that's how it is in the real world. A smart phone twenty years ago seemed so far off an amazing, now it's just passé. Can't wait for the next in the series.

Atopia is an interesting entry in the broad genre of 'Singularity' fiction. Some books, like _Halting State_ by Charles Stross and _Rainbow's End_ by Vernor Vinge, have technology recognizably connected to stuff under development today, but in a more advanced state and more widely deployed. Other, hard-core post-Singularity stuff like Stross' _Accelerando_, John C. Wright's _The Golden Age_ and Walter Williams' _Aristoi_ have technology so far in advance of ours as to be like magic._Atopia_ falls in between. The 'pssi' technology on which the titular Atopia is built is sufficiently advanced in the Clarkeian sense but the world-at-large is still more or less like ours. The future, as Gibson observed, is not equally distributed. The story explores the transition as this almost magical technology is prepared for widespread release. It's an under-explored and surprisingly fruitful niche.I particularly appreciated the author's understanding that technology, no matter how advanced, is a tool, and can be put to good or bad uses depending on the choices of the users. And, more disturbingly, the illustration that having powerful tools doesn't change human nature. Abusive parents are bad enough -- abusive parents equipped with the power of singularity-grade virtual reality technology are the stuff of nightmares. And the average person's tendency to grant technological systems poorly-understood access to their lives has dangerous ramifications when that technology is all-pervasive. How many of us have clicked the 'I Accept' button on terms and conditions that we haven't read?From a more literary standpoint, the story is well written and the characterization is engaging. It does have a somewhat complex structure, with plot threads following different characters through the same time period -- in some cases we see the same conversation from the perspective of each of its participants at widely separated points in the novel. The story also takes a little while to get moving, and the protagonist in the first part came across to me as somewhat unsympathetic. If you have that reaction, keep reading -- it gets better. My only other problem is that there are some significant issues left hanging at the end. The story reaches a good pausing point but it clearly isn't 'finished'. In some ways this book just sets up the pieces: the game is yet to be played out. Knowing that there is a sequel in the works eases the pain.In summary, along with Hugh Howey's _Wool_ _Atopia_ is one of the rare gems I've sifted out of the flood of self-published books on . Absolutely worth the price.

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