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For Immediate Release

LIBERATION

Book 3, Utopia Engine Trilogy

By Lee Schneider

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“Schneider shows us a world that many of us fear is just around the corner. When humanity gives up control to techno-capitalism as a savior, especially in the face of climate change, dystopia isn’t far away. Deft and alarmingly prescient.”

—Matt Gemmell, author of the KESTREL action-thriller series

NEW NOVEL, *LIBERATION*, ADDRESSES HUMANITY’S BIGGEST CHALLENGES

Author Lee Schneider Creates A Dystopian Future Marked By Climate Devastation and AI Run Amok, But Also By Human Resilience

The year is 2053, and “The Fracture” – a massive network outage – has shut down power around the world. Kat Keeper, a leader of the resistance movement fighting the global control of AI company, MIND, blames herself for the outage and scrambles to repair the system even as MIND targets her as an enemy. This is the beginning of Lee Schneider’s latest science fiction book, **LIBERATION** – a dystopian novel that addresses some of the most critical questions of our time: How is AI going to shape our future? What dangers does it pose? How will global climate change impact our ability to live on earth? How does corporate control of information threaten our freedom?

LIBERATION is the conclusion of Schneider’s Utopia Engine trilogy, and continues the story of Kat, who funded the technology that allowed MIND to achieve world domination. In this installment, she returns to her home in California – now known as Westcoast – where her friend and fellow resistance leader Raaven Vaara is struggling with what she says are “transmissions” from orcas. The orcas are angry at humans for poisoning the earth’s waters and have been fighting back by capsizing boats.

Kat finds herself pulled in a multitude of directions. While her first priority is building a network free of MIND’s control – a way for people to communicate and share

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information openly – she also wants to help Raaven. With this in mind, she is drawn to an extremely personable set of twins, Tristan and Renzo, one of whom offers to help her in her mission. Complicating matters is the fact that she still grieves her late husband, memories of whom are everywhere in her California home. Meanwhile, MIND is disseminating propaganda created to destroy Kat’s reputation and credibility.

Throughout the book, Schneider deftly moves among points of view. In addition to Kat’s perspective, we see those of Nora2, the second-in-command at MIND and one of many whose brain has been artificially modified; Spaceman, Kat’s friend and former mentor who invented much of the technology that distinguishes this world; and Michel, Kat’s therapy-trained bot. The result is a novel that raises powerful questions about the use of technology, while also portraying fundamentally human struggles – with romantic relationships, challenging friendships, grief, and addiction.

While the technology featured in **LIBERATION** is currently beyond our reach – most notably, the ability to upload one’s memories into cloud storage and the ability to preserve one’s consciousness after death – the risks the author outlines are terrifyingly real. As in the earlier books in this compelling trilogy, Schneider intertwines characters’ personal struggles with the threat of AI-powered corporate tyranny, creating a page-turning adventure readers won’t be able to put down.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

LEE SCHNEIDER, author of **LIBERATION**, is a science fiction and fantasy author with a long career in television and film. The author of plays, short stories, and audio drama podcasts, he has written for Good Morning America and the cartoon ThunderCats, and has produced, directed, and written documentaries for the History Channel, the Learning Channel, CourtTV, Discovery Health, the Food Network, and ReelzTV. Schneider is also the founder of Red Cup Agency, an award-winning podcast production agency, and is the Artistic Director of FutureX, a platform for futurist projects. The host of the podcast, The Future Lab with Lee Schneider, he lives in Santa Monica, CA with his family. For more information, go to: <https://leeschneiderbooks.com>