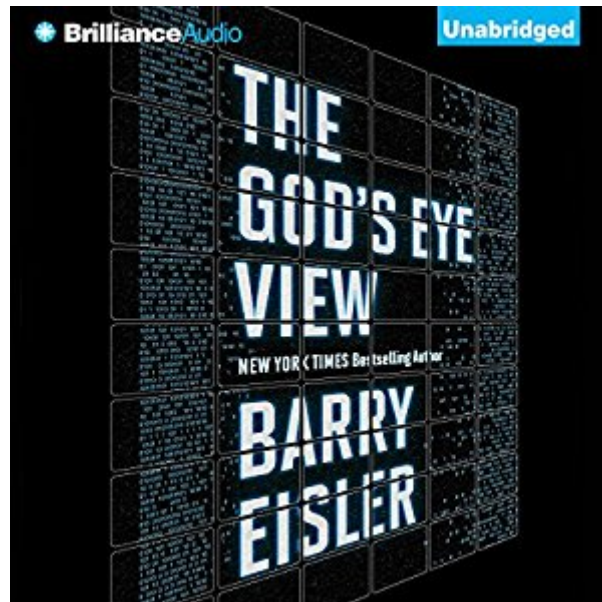


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The God's Eye View



Synopsis

NSA director Theodore Anders has a simple goal: collect every phone call, email, and keystroke tapped on the Internet. He knows unlimited surveillance is the only way to keep America safe. Evelyn Gallagher doesn't care much about any of that. She just wants to keep her head down and manage the NSA's camera network and facial recognition program so she can afford private school for her deaf son, Dash. But when Evelyn discovers the existence of a program code-named God's Eye and connects it with the mysterious deaths of a string of journalists and whistle-blowers, her doubts put her and Dash in the crosshairs of a pair of government assassins: Delgado, a sadistic bomb maker and hacker, and Manus, a damaged giant of a man who until now has cared for nothing beyond protecting the director. Within an elaborate game of political blackmail, terrorist provocations, and White House scheming, a global war is being fought - a war between those desperate to keep the state's darkest secrets and those intent on revealing them. A war that Evelyn will need all her espionage training and savvy to survive, because the director has the ultimate advantage: The God's Eye View.

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Customer Reviews

I have been reading Eisler's novels since he started the John Rain series of books in the early 2000's. Just so there is no doubt as to where I am coming from - I am a fan. This book is very fast paced and I had a hard time putting it down - wanted to get back to reading it whenever I could. That is, to me, the mark of a good book. This novel is a tale of the NSA Director's overreach. He will

go to any lengths to protect the new methods the NSA has developed to spy on the world. If you are of the opinion that Snowden should be prosecuted as a traitor, and possibly shot, this novel is not for you, however, if you fear that the government has gone way, way too far and it an active threat to our rights of privacy, then this novel will fit neatly into your belief structure. However, if you are like most of us - somewhere between those two extreme views - this novel's message, which the author keeps pounding away at, will, after a time, become overkill. But, if you are looking for a good action novel, based upon the current state of technology in the surveillance field, then this is a good book for you.

"Of all tyrannies, a tyranny sincerely exercised for the good of its victims may be the most oppressive. It would be better to live under robber barons than under omnipotent moral busybodies. The robber baron's cruelty may sometimes sleep, his cupidity may at some point be satiated; but those who torment us for our own good will torment us without end for they do so with the approval of their own conscience."-C.S. Lewis

Barry Eisler could not have paid better homage to that quote had he tried. The ever-evolving surveillance state, the nanny state, that the West is becoming has never been more frighteningly portrayed than in his newest book. The fact that it is not yet here is more a limitation of current technology than of intent. Having worked as a federal agent for over two decades, I can attest firsthand to a not insignificant portion of the security field that would very much welcome such emergent technology. With glee. Make no mistake, its not avarice or power that drives them, for the most part (although those benefits aren't unappreciated). It's that no cost is too high to pay for safety. And while others of us firmly believe in our Constitutional oaths and fight against these incursions into civil liberties, the rubber really meets the road where elected officials with authorization powers exist. They are the ones who determine yay or nay. They hold the keys to the kingdom. So be careful who you put into positions of authority in this modern, technological era. Because Barry Eisler's very well written, thrilling book is more than just a stirring tale, although it is that. It's a cautionary tale. Give the wrong people the right access to technology, and it might become eerily, frighteningly prescient. And all for your own good.

In the post-Snowden era, the NSA survived the revealing of several sensitive programs, but the fact that their spying applications were made public, has meant they needed to do things different. Director Anders believes the best way to stop terrorist attacks is to know EVERYTHING. That's what the God's Eye program does. No one is untouchable and all is revealed, but what happens when one man believes any cost is worth protecting his precious program. This is the crux of "The

God's Eye View." NSA analyst Evie Gallagher had designed a new camera network and facial recognition program and she does her job well, that is, until the day she sees something she's not supposed. Thus begins the game of cat and mouse, but which one is Evie?"The God's Eye View" is a fast-paced thriller with lots of twists and turns throughout the story. The main characters, Anders, Gallagher and Manus were nicely fleshed out. The author let us in on their inner thinking and their flaws. Before Snowden had exposed the NSA, I would have thought this book was a bit far-fetched, but now, I think this fictional scenario could very well contain seeds of truth and is entirely plausible. That's what makes the book so good. I was riveted to it until the very last page. Highly recommended. I received a copy of this book from the publisher for a fair and honest review.

I found this book to be uneven. It veers from basic cartoon sketches of the stock characters' thoughts and feelings (which I had a hard time taking seriously) into hyper-real, lingering, well-developed scenes of sex and violence (which I had a hard time reading). Weird inconsistencies substitute for character growth. The didactic passages that other reviewers have noted can be kind of annoying as well. (I'm not sure the author got the "show, don't tell" memo.) The story arc is quite predictable -- but what DO you do to circumvent total information awareness, technically speaking? This is a subject the author knows something about, and I was curious enough to keep reading. If you're interested in the NSA subject matter, this is a thriller with footnotes. Literally! But as a novel? It just didn't come alive for me. I was curious about the accuracy of his portrayal of the characters who use American Sign Language. They had some extremely detailed and subtle conversations, often at very tense moments, and I'd love to know how realistic that was. I haven't read any other books by this author, but this is not a book that puts him in a class with Michael Connolly.

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