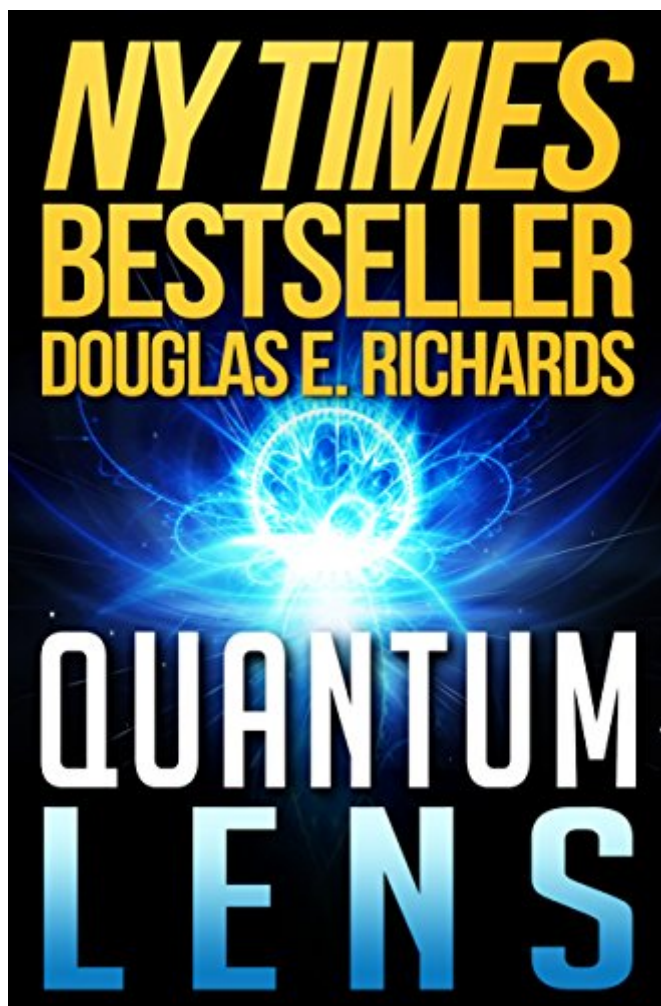




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## Quantum Lens



## Synopsis

A mind-blowing near-future thriller. From the NY Times bestselling author whose books have sold over a million copies. Omar Haddad is a brutal jihadist in Syria who appears to be capable of supernatural feats. But is Haddad divine, as he claims? Is he a gifted magician? Or is he making use of a stunning scientific breakthrough? And what, exactly, is keeping him from unleashing the global apocalypse he's so eager to bring about? Brennan Craft, a quirky quantum physics genius, has the answers, and the US military is desperate to capture him. But when Craft risks everything to recruit a Black Ops researcher named Alyssa Aronson, it becomes clear he's playing a treacherous game of his own. Hunted by both the military and Haddad, Craft and Alyssa race to find a way to keep the unstoppable jihadist in check. But there may not be any way. And Alyssa soon fears that Craft is becoming an even bigger threat to the world than Omar Haddad . . . Quantum Lens is a smart, roller-coaster-ride of a thriller, packed with intriguing ideas that readers will be contemplating long after they've read the last page. "Richards is a worthy successor to Michael Crichton." (SF Book.com) "Richards is a tremendous new talent" (Stephen Coonts) who can "keep you turning the pages all night long" (Douglas Preston) Near Future Science Fiction Thrillers by Douglas E. Richards WIRED (Wired 1) AMPED (Wired 2) MIND'S EYE (Nick Hall 1) BRAINWEB (Nick Hall 2) MIND WAR (Nick Hall 3) -- New in 2016 QUANTUM LENS -- SPLIT SECOND -- GAME CHANGER -- New in 2016 INFINITY BORN -- New in 2017 Kids Science Fiction Thrillers (9 and up, enjoyed by kids and adults alike) TRAPPED (Prometheus Project 1) CAPTURED (Prometheus Project 2) STRANDED (Prometheus Project 3) OUT OF THIS WORLD THE DEVIL'S SWORD

## Book Information

File Size: 2060 KB

Print Length: 358 pages

Simultaneous Device Usage: Unlimited

Publisher: Paragon Press (October 1, 2014)

Publication Date: October 1, 2014

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00NQBXS6I

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #4,612 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #23 in Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Thrillers & Suspense > Medical #29 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Thrillers > Medical #52 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Literature & Fiction > Action & Adventure > Men's Adventure

## Customer Reviews

When I first started listening to this book on my long commutes each Monday and Thursday, I was almost turned off totally by the way that it started out fully expecting to be reading or listening to a piece of science fiction. The rantings and self proclaimed hand of Allah was a bit too much and I thought I had made another purchase boo boo. I stuck with it however, as I do with most books and it turned out to be a great piece of work, highly original, well researched in the areas of physics, biology, genetics, psychology, and an understanding of what makes humans tick. May reviews sound a tad bit negative, and it is understandable to some degree ... it does tend to recover territory already brought to light many times before; but, I did not find it to be a major detractor to the books and the way it was written. Make no mistake, this is not SF in the tradition of Clarke, Simon, Heinlein, or Bradbury. It is a combination of Action Thriller, Mystery, and Sci Fi combined. I would surmise that this may be the reason that the book is not everyone's "cup of tea." Nonetheless, it is a great book, probably better listened to than read thanks to the Audible presentation (no commercial plug here, just at the mercy of four hour long drives twice a week.) Is there violence, yes some; but, not terribly graphic ... and explosion here, angry words there... all part of what keeps the story flowing. Sexual content is extremely brief, tasteful, and a lot less graphic than TV or movies. Should not be offensive from a violence or sexual content stance. I would recommend this book to anyone except those challenged by reading in a sacred sci-fi silo. It's much more than that. And yes, I will also probably download and read/listen to some of Mr. Richards other books.

I purchased QUANTUM LENS in both kindle edition and audible edition in advance of a vacation, so my husband and I could listen to the audiobook together, and as needed, we could read parts when listening wasn't convenient. First, I was stunned, as I read along to the audible narration, how frequently the voice performer changed words, mixed phrases around, or mispronounced names

(Alyssa, the leading lady, became Alicia). One whole page was re-read, immediately following the initial presentation of those paragraphs. Not the writer's fault, but come on. Doesn't anyone look at quality issues? The kindle edition is relatively well edited. It has problems too. Might be my curse that I see every dropped period, every missing close quote, every word that should be capitalized and isn't. But makes for arduous reading. The story itself was entertaining, captured our interest, and held it. We enjoyed the premise and found it intriguing. Sometimes the conversations dragged on and on and on, particularly when as listeners/readers, we'd already discovered some of the content through previous characters, and now had to sit through it again while yet another character learns about it. This must fall into the "intellectual thriller" category, as there was little action, and far more scenes where all that happens is talk. Sometimes it's hard to follow because we're in Bren's head for a few paragraphs and then in Alyssa's, then floating over to somebody else (Bren's Billionaire Best Friend, Martin), then to the villain Al Yhad. Lots of characters, so be prepared to take notes. Bren was likeable from moment 1, which was good as Alyssa needed to like him for the story to work. The writer did a great job making us lose confidence in Bren, and hate him right along Alyssa, when the time was right. Alyssa was an admirable, likeable, brilliant woman. One that was easy to like and admire, if not identify with. It was easy to believe she fell for Theo, and then for Brennan. The relationship was definitely a secondary part of the story and not the main focus. I do read a few mysteries, a few thrillers, and a few nonfiction books in between my favorite genre (romance). Unfortunately, much of the romance was glossed over and rather insignificantly. Sad, that, as the attachment Alyssa develops for Bren becomes a huge part and crux of the story as things play out. Oh well. It's not a romance, and I get that. It's science fiction. And a thriller. The cover makes the genre choice super clear. No mistaking this read for anything else. Sensuality Level: PG Language: Rated PG-13 to R, depending upon individual lines drawn in the sand Violence: Rated R Recommended to fans of Sci-Fi and intellectual thrillers

However there is much more to this story than the prospect of human flight. The plot is constructed with the brilliance of a chess grand master, and the reader soon realises this - with each twist and turn of events concerning the age-old battle between powers of good and evil, played out in the force-fields of quantum physics, international politics and fundamentalism. As we are drawn into the convincing and highly intellectually satisfying novel, we track the unforeseen outcome of an Internet date between two intelligent and gifted scientists - and how the synergy between them leads deeper into mind research taking us with them, and making us thirst for more of the science and philosophy behind their respective fields of knowledge. However there are many nuances of this quest and the

author masterfully unfolds his gripping exposition of dilemmas facing the hero and heroine about what to believe, whom to trust and what matters most when faced with a life or death ultimatum. I loved the author's grasp of human relationships and how dating and mating in the modern world have evolved... And how he weaves cutting edge contemporary scientific knowledge into an enthralling human drama that touches the divine. This is the first novel that I have read by this well-credentialled and gifted writer, who pays tribute to the genius of Asimov, and in turn echoes some of Asimov's finer attributes. I am enthused to read more of his work. Highly recommended.

I'll admit that the quantum physics went well above my capacities, but I hung in there and read the whole story. I can't say I enjoyed it; hence the 3 stars. I credit the author for an inventive and creative novel, but the story was so far-fetched that I could not really get into it. The machinations of Brennan Craft were imaginative but ultimately this was not a thriller. The pace was slow and bogged down with philosophy, and the ending was not "on the edge of your seat" fulfilling.

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