



Death By Probability (Evan Olsson, #1)

Urno Barthel , Art Chester

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Overview

A prim and pristine research lab isn't the type of place where murders are supposed to happen – but it may just be the place where the brutal crime is solved.

When Evan Olsson finds his mentor's bloody body sprawled on the floor of a top-secret computer research lab, the sanctity of this cloistered, clandestine world is shattered. Who would, or could, do such a thing – and why? Evan enlists the help of a reluctant FBI partner and every computer science and nanotechnology tool in his arsenal to unravel the mystery. But Evan's quest leads him to uncover a potentially catastrophic hacker plot that threatens the U.S. and Canadian electrical power network and the millions relying on it.

Death by Probability is a genre-bending tour de force that weaves in technology and fringe science, friendship and romance, computer intelligence and human frailty for a riveting read that builds to a fast-paced climax. Crafted by physicist-turned-author Urno Barthel, the book is a delight for those who enjoy technology and science fiction, as well as mystery buffs who revel in plausible stories and fully formed characters that pull them seamlessly into another, thrilling realm.

About the Author

URNO BARTHEL is the pen name of Art Chester, a physicist turned technology manager turned writer. His characters are based on real scientists whose quiet lives are disrupted by terror and murder. Art invites you to his website, which offers commentary about science in our lives and fiction about scientists:

<http://artchester.net>

After many years in Malibu, California, Art now spends his time in Michigan, New York state and Hawaii.

Death By Probability (Evan Olsson, #1) Details

Date : Published January 10th 2014 by Outskirts Press

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Author : Urno Barthel , Art Chester

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Genre : Suspense

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From Reader Review Death By Probability (Evan Olsson, #1) for online ebook

Ricki says

The premise had great promise, but many parts dragged and the denouement seemed out of left field.

Kim Freitas says

sometimes difficult to follow with all of the techno babble, but overall an enjoyable read

Georgiann Hennelly says

Death By Probability is an Engrossing Techno-Thriller story. Evan Olsson found his Mentor's Bloody Body on the floor of the Top Secret Computer Research Lab. Who could of or would of wanted to Murder his Mentor? Evan enlists the help of a FBI Partner and every Computer and Nanotechnology tool in his arsenal to try to figure out the mystery. But his quest leads him to uncover a catastrophic hacker plot that is a threat to the U.S and Canadian electrical power network and everyone who relies on it.

Michelle says

I won this book on a goodread giveaway .Enjoyable read but I must admit I found the plot a bit too intricate and technical for my mind. Thank-you

Valerie says

I enjoyed the book, the suspense was great to the end.

James Sorensen says

I won this book as part of the Goodreads First-Read program.

Art Chester says

Review provided by *Kirkus Reviews*: (Kirkus Reviews does not assign a star rating)

In Barthel's debut techno-thriller, the death of a scientist in a California lab could be murder, and his posthumously discovered message warns of a possible terrorist attack in the U.S.

Evan Olsson works at Halsted Aeronautic Laboratory for two years before he even hears of HAL's secret lab, the Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility. His boss asks him to summarize, in nontechnical terms for the benefit of HAL customers, the scientists' projects carried out in the SCIF. When Evan's SCIF boss and mentor, Will Davenport, is found dead in his office, Evan takes over Will's project, analyzing data for the FBI—namely emails or other forms of communication from suspected drug dealers. But an encrypted video message from Will leads Evan to believe that someone murdered him for getting too close to a covert group plotting to cripple the U.S. by sabotaging its electrical power network. As Evan fears that a killer may target him as well, he teams up with Matt Emerson, a Fed who'd worked with Will on the project, to shut down drug dealers and potential terrorists that, Evan discovers, may have ties to Will's murderer. The novel is a deft blend of techno-thriller and murder mystery, and the latter is promptly established by opening with the discovery of Will's body. Evan's SCIF assignment has him interviewing scientists about their projects, including two men developing small, imperceptible transponders, and each of these people ultimately becomes a suspect, as the high-level security at HAL practically guarantees that the killer is employed at the lab. Evan is a curious protagonist whose initial behavior is perplexing; the first thing he does after learning of his boss's death is take Holly, a colleague married to another HAL scientist, to lunch and strongly suggest that they have sex (he later concedes that he "felt like a creep"). But his amateur investigation is solid. He whittles down the suspect list with the barest of clues, having seen neither the body nor any data collected by the FBI (which didn't treat it as a crime scene), and his paranoia is well-founded since he's dealing with scientists who prefer keeping their work secret. The best sequences are of Evan conversing with his artificial intelligence, Al; their discussions not only accommodate updates on the progressing case, but are quite humorous as well.

A sound thriller/mystery with drug dealers, terrorists and a memorable lead character.

Beth Olson shultz says

This mystery has so many elements. Technology that was different, computer intelligence, and friendship/romance. Sometimes, I would just wonder at the imagination. Won this book from goodreads.

Barbara D. says

An excellent thriller, well written and with intriguing characters!

I found the story to be engaging, as the author did an impressive job weaving together state-of-the-art technology, intrigue, mystery, action and suspense. The characters were well thought out and captivating. I especially enjoyed the computer geek, Evan Olsson and his close companion, almost alter-ego, Al. Overall, I enjoyed this book and I would recommend it to anyone who loves an engrossing and brilliant techno-thriller.

