



# The Lazarus Game

*Stephen J. Valentine*

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## **The Lazarus Game** Stephen J. Valentine

It was created to change the world. With the power to resurrect the minds of history's brightest stars, the Lazarus Game promises to pool mankind's generations of geniuses and merge them in a modern utopia.

But teenage genius Carter Chance has discovered the deadly secret behind this popular virtual reality, and now he's the only one who can stop his generation from destroying themselves for a computer-generated fantasy.

This action-packed sci-fi thriller delves deep into your perceptions of reality, life, and the value of a soul.

## **The Lazarus Game Details**

Date : Published February 10th 2015 by Cedar Fort Publishing & Media

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Author : Stephen J. Valentine

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Genre : Science Fiction, Young Adult, Fantasy, Thriller, Fiction, Suspense

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## From Reader Review The Lazarus Game for online ebook

### **Lisa (Bookworm Lisa) says**

Cater Chase is a genius. He is amazing when it comes to thinking on his feet. He is able to figure out how to handle situations in a logical manner. He is also a teenage boy, with teenage wants, and teenage friends. He also comes from a dysfunctional family. What Carter really wants is to feel loved and find happiness.

The book begins with excitement and Carter captures a Russian spy. The action keeps coming as Carter moves from one tense situation to another. I can see my sons loving this book. It has the right amount of action, mystery, adventure, and even a little bit of a romantic interest.

His small town becomes the focus of a new gaming store that carries an incredible game, The Lazarus Game. The major problem is that the game is addictive. Carter has to choose between his conscience and wealth. For a fifteen year old boy, that is not an easy decision.

This book will leave you guessing. It will thrill young readers with the action and give them a mystery as Carter unravels clues to determine who is the good guy and who is the bad.

There is some violence in the story. Overall, I would say that it is appropriate for a tween reader or older.

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### **Shala says**

I really enjoyed this book! I wasn't sure what to expect but it kept me guessing while reading and thinking well after I finished it. It was fun and funny and written from a teenage boy's point of view. I liked the themes of choice and accountability and thought the book was very creatively thought out and well written. There was some violence so I won't let my 10 year old daughter read it quite yet.

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### **Reading For Sanity says**

Please visit us at: [http://readingforsanity.blogspot.com/...](http://readingforsanity.blogspot.com/)

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### **Becca says**

I was pleasantly surprised when I read this book. Video games are my least favorite thing on the planet so I didn't quite know if I would like it. I am glad I put my dislike for games aside and picked up the book. It was so good.

When The Lazarus Game Shop comes to town it seems to take over the town. Kids stop going to school, and some kids go missing.

When the owner of the store tries to get Carter to join his team to make the Lazarus Game even bigger, and better, Carter is quickly drawn in.

Carter sees everything that money and knowledge can buy. The newest and greatest gadgets, including planes, cars, and so much more. Who wouldn't love getting involved with that.

This book was exciting and took me somewhere I didn't expect. I tell my kids all the time that video games suck the life out of you, and this book showed just how that happens ;). There are so many things in this book that I didn't expect. In a good way :). It wasn't just video games, it was so much more. It was an exciting book.

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### **Shauna says**

Do you love to play video games?

Carter Chance is a genius...He is also a little bored.

So when a new video game store comes to town he takes a look.

But things don't seem quite right.

While investigating Carter is offered a job to mastermind a new version of The Lazarus Game.

The Lazarus Game is amazing and everyone wants to spend hours playing it.

Only one problem...

As they do they are also giving up their very souls to bring back geniuses from the past.

Can Carter stop the madman before it is "game over?"

This is a FUN book with lots of action, adventure, and intrigue.

It really makes you think about some of the video games out there!

While the humor is geared towards a middle-grade boy...this is a PERFECT book to be read by the whole family.

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### **Rhonda says**

4 STARS

This is different book on many levels. It is exciting YA adventure. It is a science fiction. A book that is philosophical. Makes me wonder what choice would I make. It is a clean read.

Carter is a genius. He is a teenager. He is going to high school for the social life. He is smug.

Sidney Locke is one of his friends. Carter has a crush on her.

Clinton is Carter's older brother. He is a jock who quit playing sports. He is a senior.

Darek Bramderson is his best friend. He hates everyone.

Kyle Chamberlain is irresistible to woman. These friends hang out together. They work together to find out

answers.

I was surprised at who the bad guys were. For the longest time I could not tell who were the ones to trust. I admired the bad guys.

There is a new game store that has moved into town. Everyone is talking about the games. People are lined up to get into play the video games.

This deals with the worth of a person's life. Is one person worth more than another's life. I think I know but then wonder if I am faced with one of my family what choice would I make than.

I was given this ebook to read by Cedar Fort Publishing. In return I agreed to give a honest review of The Lazarus Game and be part of it's blog tour. first appeared on readalot blog

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### **C'Anne says**

YA fiction with an interesting plot. Evil men trying to use video games against the players. I hated the attitude of the main character. He was an arrogant, naive, and cocky teenager. So maybe he was written well with those attributes that he was supposed to have, but I just really didn't like the way he thought or talked or acted. But the story was different and overall an ok book.

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### **Emmy says**

Carter Chance is the boy who thinks he has it all figured out. He is a boy genius, still in high school by choice though of course as he is smart enough he could graduate now. He likes to use his genius and the help of his friends to solve crimes around the city. When a new video store comes into town, the entire town soon seems to be sucked into and addicted to this new store and the games it offers. While Carter is trying to figure what it is about this game that has the whole city's attention, he meets the owner and creator of this store and the Lazarus Game. Carter is offered riches and opportunities beyond his wildest dreams in exchange for his help in creating the new version of the Lazarus Game. The more Carter learns, the more he realizes there is much more to the game than he originally thought.

My review: I will admit, it took me a while to get into this book. Carter is extremely intelligent and extremely arrogant because of it. Not only was he not very relatable but also annoyed me quite a bit. While I knew right away there was something wrong with the Game store and the game and knew the owner was not to be trusted, I did not predict or guess the true depth of the game.

As Carter begins to realize the truth, his understanding and his character become much more likable. In that sense, it feels like someone truly growing and maturing in a way that made me almost forgive him for how he was in the beginning.

As the true nature of the Lazarus Game is discovered it raises some great questions about the value of life and what should and should not be sacrificed. This book is free of language. It does have fighting, death, and even some subject matters that might be a little intense for a younger reader, however it is not written in a way that makes it morbid or too graphic.

So while this book was a very rough start for me, I did enjoy the story and the progression of the characters

in the end.

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## **Meagan Myhren-bennett says**

The Lazarus Game  
By Stephen J. Valentine  
The perfect game.  
The key to immortality.  
The ultimate price.

It all started with trying to impress Sidney Locke by capturing the Russian gangster who shot her father. After all Carter Chance is a genius (which he's more than happy to tell you) and when Carter decides to do something it gets done (usually).

But what Carter and his friends saw that night was just the beginning. This was the first time they were aware of the Lazarus Game Shop. A game shop that was about to have an unexpected impact on not only Carter's life but the lives of everyone in Merewether.

When Carter is offered the chance of a lifetime to work for Geoffrey Chaucer, owner of Lazarus Game Shop - he does what every 15 year old teenage guy would do - he uses the opportunity to try yet again to impress Sidney (his girlfriend, he hopes). But there's just one problem - some Hobo Warrior with a big axe thingy! And Hobo Warrior (Carter's name for this guy) isn't afraid to use his axe thingy.

Can Carter determine the truth before it is too late? Dealing with a family life that is barely there Carter is more than eager to help Chaucer bring about a new world and he knows he possess the skills and genius know-how to bring The Lazarus Game to the next level.

The Lazarus Game is told from Carter's point-of-view and his opinion of himself is anything but humble. This book will appeal to both tween and teen boys and at just over 300 pages would be a perfect choice for a book report (free choice, science fiction, or thriller). This is clean reading so parents and grandparents don't need to worry about what horrors lurk between the covers.

I was provided a copy of this book by Cedar Fort in exchange for my honest review and tour participation.

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## **Melanie says**

This is a fun read! I'm not into the gaming world at all but this book sounded interesting and I'm glad I read it. Carter Chance is smart and funny. I got a kick out of a lot of what he said. I also liked that he has a human side, too. He does make some mistakes, but because he's uber smart, he figures out quickly how to rectify things.

A new video store has opened up in his town and he is invited in to be part of something that will make him powerful. As he learns more, though, it doesn't seem like such a great offer. He has to determine what the cost will be and if it's ultimately worth it. He also needs to figure out who to trust. It was fascinating to read about the bad guys and learn who they were.

There are some great side stories as well. His family life is fractured and I loved what he was able to learn

about each of them. He also learns more about his friends. I loved the fast pace and action scenes.

The ending is satisfying so this appears to be a stand alone book. I liked this author's writing style and humor and in looking at his website, it sounds like he has some works in progress so I'm hoping there will be more from him in the future!

I received a copy of this book to review. My opinion is 100% my own.

Mel's Shelves

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### **JoAnn says**

The Lazarus Game

The Lazarus Game is a book well worth the read. It's science fiction yet, the story isn't too far from possible reality, with the continual high tech advancement in video games in today's world.

Carter Chance in a teenager and a genius who finds his intellect challenged through video games.

When a new video game comes to town, Carter and his three friends decide to check it out. This is the beginning of shock and surprise for all of them. Their adventure is one of intrigue, mysterious fear and heroism.

I give "The Lazarus Game" 4 stars.

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### **Melodee says**

I can't quite put my finger on why I didn't like this book more. It had an interesting plot. It is thought provoking. The main character learns valuable lessons and comes out the other side a better person. It has good moral discussion points. All elements that usually lend itself to a book I enjoy. But somehow I had a hard time sticking with it. I think for me it's because the author spent so much time developing his points of questioning if sacrificing many for "the greater good" is really worth the sacrifice, that he forgot to develop the characters. The main character is a jerk, plain and simple. He even admits it himself, multiple times. He's not likable, but unlike Benedict Cumberbach's Sherlock Holmes, this genius isn't even enjoyable to read. He's not witty, and doesn't really do anything to prove his superiority. It's stated that he's a genius, and thus it is so. Yes, he does get some understanding of the value of other people at the end, but only in the last few pages, and you have to wade through the entire book of him being unpleasant. Then the numerous supporting characters don't really have a chance to develop more than flat surface space fillers. This was a book I could put down, and picked up again when I got around to it, but with no enthusiastic eagerness.

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### **Michael says**

A fine book. Cool concepts and easy read. Likely more enjoyable for young teenage readers.

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### **Kamiko says**

DNF

I don't know. This book was just not working for me. It was really unrealistic with the way kids act, and the main character was getting on my last nerves. He's just too smug, proud, self-centered, you name it. At first, I was like, ok, he's a genius, I would think everyone's below my standard too.(Not really) It was just too much when he constantly brushed off his brother for caring about him. I just stopped. This book didn't showcase his genius, in fact, it made him look like a foolish easily provoked kid. Time after time, someone has to save him. This book just really irritated me, and that's just the first 110 pages or so.

3 stars is for Logan, I liked him even though I barely saw him in the little I read.

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### **Trimble says**

The Lazarus Game, as insinuated by its title, is a story about death and resurrection. Unfortunately, the players of the game aren't always aware of what they're getting themselves into until it's too late. The creator thinks he's a god and has a twisted idea of what's right and wrong. Things are about to take a turn for the worse in hyper-speed if someone can't put a stop to the game.

It took a little time to get into this book, I actually almost put it down for good but I decided to give it a bit more time, and I'm glad I did as it turned out to be great. My difficulty with the story was due to the main character, Carter. He is a genius and as a result is extremely arrogant, condescending and just flat out rude. This attitude isn't just to those he doesn't like--it's to everyone, including his family and friends. While describing another character he took his superiority a step too far (in my opinion) and that's why I nearly gave up. But you have to understand that in order for the plot to make sense Carter has to be a self-absorbed jerk. Luckily, you'll get to see a better side of him as well. You'll also get to enjoy a few laughs as Carter deals with a Russian mobster who has grammar issues. Stephen Valentine creates a storyline that is unique, action-packed and engaging. This is what I would consider a "guy read" but girls will enjoy it as well.

For full content review go to: <http://www.compassbookratings.com/rev...>

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