



# Freelancer

*Jake Lingwall*

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## **Freelancer** Jake Lingwall

Kari is a freelance hacker, taking jobs from clients to design anything from art to security software. In a world where 3D printers, drones and computers that connect directly to the brain are common things, Kari finds keeping her talents secret while trying to finish high school to be quite the problem. With the threat of the 2nd Civil War, Kari must decide how far she will go to protect herself and others from harm's way, even when her choices might have consequences she's not ready to face.

## **Freelancer Details**

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Author : Jake Lingwall

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## From Reader Review Freelancer for online ebook

### Mike Nemeth says

I had no idea what to expect with Jake Lingwall's "Freelancer." But the description on Amazon got me interested immediately: "Kari, freelance hacker and high school student, designs anything from art to security software in a world where 3D printers, drones, and computers connect directly to the brain." I mean, I don't know why actually. I'm no programmer. I'm not a high school kid anymore, and when I was I was reading Robert A. Heinlein's series of sci-fi for teens novels. But something clicked. The book belongs to a new generation in science fiction, one that incorporates current technologies and speculates outward, much like the old guard back in the 1930s and 40s with their jetpacks, interstellar travel and alien races. But this time the new stuff has 3D printing technologies, cyber mind melds and drone warfare. And Lingwall incorporates all these elements seamlessly. Kari is a typical kid. She's irritated by the popular girls and their vapid priorities of fashion and clique creation. She prints out new clothes but makes them baggy and not form fitting. She relates to the rebel, who she doesn't really care for at first or agree with. She doesn't even like school, which has become nothing more than a politically correct once a week requirement. She's got other things on her mind. Like creating drones that do amazing things. Unfortunately for Kari she can't stay under the radar. She's got to become involved. And that's when the book really takes off. I could say a bit about what happens, but it's more fun to read. The pacing is tremendous, and I never really knew what direction Lingwall would head. He's got a hell of a storytelling talent. I'd rank him right up there with my other favorite new sci-fi author, Mars Dorian.

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### Maggie says

"A beautiful mind"

Kari is way smarter than your average bear. At seventeen, she hides her brilliance at school by day and freelances on the net at night. Her products? Anything she can imagine, write the code for, and create on three-D printers.

Her parents don't have any idea what she can do or what she can create. Kari hides her talents away in this dystopian mechanized world where only three types of jobs exist and her skill set is out of the box.

Meanwhile, the US is poised for another Civil War. A clever government plot draws Kari out of hiding, paints her as a heinous threat to society. They'll let her family and her friend David's family go if she cooperates and creates powerful weapons for them.

Little do they know, putting Kari in a tight jam is just the way to stoke her creative engine. With a little luck, she might just save the world and have a date for the dance.

Lingwall's page turning dystopian YA novel kept me on the edge of my seat. The high octane blend of Kari's vulnerabilities, poise, and talents stole the show.

Another winner from Kindle Scout.

Maggie Toussaint and Rigel Carson for Muddy Rose Reviews

## Lane Sawyer says

Freelancer was a very entertaining read! I'm currently a programmer, and I envy the types of tools the main character has access to for her projects. Lingwall does a great job at building a believable future, with technology that we'll probably see someday in the future!

The budding civil war was the novel's central conflict and was able to drive the story forward at an appropriate pace. I also appreciated that the love interest subplot was present, but not prominent. Too many books of this length and genre tend to involve childish love triangles and I was very relieved to see this was not the case.

If you're looking for a fairly quick read that does a great job at giving us a glimpse of the future, picking up Freelance is a no-brainer!

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## Vincent Annunziato says

I voted for this book on Kindle Scout and was very happy to get a free read. I love sci-fi and this book does not disappoint. The star of the show, Kari, is a hacker of extreme aptitude. She has a heart of gold and finds herself at the top of the class with only one competitor. A boy named David, whom she doesn't want to admit is cute. He is from middle states which are currently in a bit of tizzy with the coastal states and potentially a civil war looms in the forefront.

As David and his family draw more attention to them for their alliances, friends become enemies and the state becomes mistrustful. They are innocent of course and Kari doesn't want to see them get hurt.

She is a master programmer and has the ability to build drones with her 3D printer. Her only goal is to make sure no one gets hurt, especially David. As her love interest grows, so does her need to protect the innocent and pretty soon finds herself immersed in a web of intrigue. When neighbors turn on David's family, Kari puts her special forces in motion to save them. This attracts some very high level government officials and suddenly she is a wanted person too.

The government needs Kari's brilliance to help them win the war. They want her to develop weaponry that could crush the rebellion. They find a weak spot and force her to do their bidding while holding her parents. Now Kari has two families to protect while she is under surveillance.

This is an excellent story. The author has a great command of the technology and keeps the reader guessing throughout. The ending was outstanding and very action packed. Dying to hear what happens to Kari in the sequel. Nice job!

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## Joshua says

Excellent book that is well-paced, technologically focused but without arcane terminology or ideas, and features a very identifiable and likable protagonist. Looking forward to the sequel!

## **Wawa says**

I thought I wouldn't review this book but I just finished an assignment and let's just say I need something else to think about.

Now, back to the point. Simply put, this book was interesting. In the kindle version I read, since it features an African American girl and coupled with the synopsis I thought it would be a good read. And it was. It's set in the future, hundreds of years as the main character always reiterates and it's a good futuristic view that is painted. It's light and a fast read and I enjoyed for the most part. (view spoiler) Overall, good stuff. I liked the peculiarity of the story since I haven't read many futuristic novels.

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## **Sean Randall says**

wow. An exciting, internally consistent and rather thrilling teen story. It reminded me of a Cory Doctorow for a slightly younger audience, and I felt myself cheering Kari on all the way. The sequel will hopefully carry things on well, as the ending was both a neat way to finish the novel and left things wide open for further developments.

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## **Erika says**

I love sci fi, but especially books like this, I can really believe that everything in the book is possible, and that makes it even better. I could see everything in the book becoming reality.

I liked the main character a lot. She is kind of a loner, and at first she seems like a wuss, I was kind of mad at her that she wasn't fighting back, but once she decided to fight, what a fight!

I really recomend this book, is for everyone, but if you have an IT background like me, you will like it even more.

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## **Nicole Dunton says**

This book was amazing! It was imaginative and action packed! I loved it! I was rooting for the main character the whole way! This story is about a girl in high school who does freelance work as a hacker in secret. She lives in a world where 3D printers are available everywhere and people have chip implants that gives them full access to the internet. It's definitely a unique story plot in my opinion. I have the next two in the series on my Kindle and ready to pull up and read! If you are into dystopian/science fiction kind of books, this is an amazing read. I fully recommend it!

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## **Kayhan says**

**Awesome**

Amazing story, riveting, leaves me wanting more. Readers will not be able to put this book down. I'd give the book 500 stars if I could.

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**\_ says**

This review is going to sound a bit critical ("surprise, surprise" says anyone who knows me and/or my reviews), but I don't mean it be taken as a negative review. I like this book. It is a good read and I do recommend it for anyone with an appreciation of YA fiction or just fun reads. The critical part is for the character as written, which was very consistent, and a bit of the world concept.

Now, when I first started reading this I found myself being fairly critical of the writing style. It does not start out with polish and feels a bit choppy. It seems like it could be 'first time author' syndrome or maybe just YA style. There were also some fairly apparent editing issues that jumped out at me while in hyper-critical mode. Fortunately, I was able to push that aside (or got used to it - \*shrug\*) and continue with the book, which turned into a fairly decent read.

The plot begins in the not-so-distant future where single-day school weeks, auto-everythings, instant stuff-printers, and ubiquitous drones make the life of a teenager almost bearable. The setting is North Carolina during a time of political unrest that is about to erupt into full-fledged civil war between the coastal states and the Middle States of the U.S. The MC is a senior in high-school who just wants to finish the mandatory indoctrination called 'school' and continue with her clandestine preoccupation with designing and building new and wondrous technical marvels as a Freelance hacker savant. All this is a young person's realm. I'm sure my teen-self would have loved this book very much and found nothing amiss. My much older cynical-self just chuckles at the naivete. It's still a decent read because the characters are realistic (if naive and a bit Mary Sue... but that's YA in a nutshell), and the plot/pacing continues to pull the reader forward into the tale.

The high moral stance of being neutral on a pending civil war in the U.S. was an odd choice. It's a theme throughout, but only the incompetence of the antagonist & the graciousness of the 'enemy' allows it to exist and succeed. I think real world exigencies would not be so gentle. Still, I have to reiterate that the book is a good read and worth continuation of the series to find out what happens next. I plan to pick it up.

I give this one three stars and call it an entertaining read.

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### **Liquid Frost says**

This is, most definitely, YA and safe for young readers. Kari isn't just a 'freelance hacker and high school student.' She is crazy good with code - a young hero that sticks with an ethical code, navigates through the normal drama of school, and happens to find herself in the middle of the Civil War. There is death and destruction, but it isn't gratuitous violence. Like I said, totally YA.

Unlike everything on Nickelodeon, parents aren't fodder for canned laughter. Lingwall takes normal people, family, military, and politics and portrays them all true to nature. In some ways, there is comparable nature to Artemis Fowl. No sprites and such, but brilliance, technology, self-doubt, and grit.

Fun overall, but too clean for my normal tastes. Author provided copy for review.

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## The Behrg says

Forget the CLONE wars ... this is the DRONE wars.

Freelancer is Lingwall's debut novel, an impressive feat in the YA arena, especially considering his fresh take on the future. Kari is a brilliant programmer who finds herself on the wrong side of the law as the United States are in the process of dividing. Lingwall's writing is definitely on the lighter side, thematically, of where I typically like my literature (dark and dreary) but he accomplishes everything he aims to in this debut with a fantastic cast and dynamic protagonist. Will be interesting to see where the series goes from here. Either way, I'm in for the ride.

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## Pauline says

Overall, it was an okay read.

What I liked about it:

- \*Interesting world-building. The usual dystopian world I read about lately is uncivilized and non-technological. This is the opposite. I like the futuristic feel.
- \*Vivid descriptions. I could easily picture out the simulations being described as if I am watching a movie.
- \*The cool gadgetry. Especially the mind chip! I want to have one. It would be awesome to hold whatever your mind could think of. Writing a novel would be a blast with a mind chip.

What I had (slight) problems with that made me give the 3-star rating:

- \*The pacing is too slow for me. I think, I got really excited in Chapter 11 when something is finally happening. And in some parts the excitement level was not sustained enough.
- \*I couldn't relate or appreciate the characters. They feel to me. However, I think younger readers will like Kari.
- \*There was not enough tension for me.
- \*The shift from one thing to another is a bit too fast that the transition is a bit jarring sometimes. There are times when I get questions in my mind to what happened in between the shifts.
- \*Weird love angle. Although I really don't like love stories in YA with dystopian themes. Like in Hunger Games and most especially in Divergent. I feel the same here.

Conclusion:

This is a kind of book that really young adults will like and appreciate.

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## Julia says

### Excellent Work

I loved this book! Took me all of two days to finish it - a very hard book to put down. Jake Lingwall's storytelling skills and creativity are very impressive. I love that it has a female protagonist who becomes so invested in doing the right thing when it matters most. Kari Tahe is the hero we all should be. Also compelling is Lingwall's view of the future, and the technology that exists and its effect on the world.

I'd recommend this book to anyone looking for a fun, engrossing read.

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