



JON PUCKRIDGE

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It's BLADE RUNNER meets Paolo Bacigalupi's THE WINDUP GIRL

OneWorld is a planet orbited by thousands of satellite cities, and home to 23 billion humans. A place where governments, police forces and law courts compete for business within a wholly privatised system; where murder, rape and torture are merely extra items on your insurance policy; where a corporation owns the license for time; and where scientific fact has been replaced by 'consumer information'. In OneWorld, every product wirelessly links to the 'grID', and people spend most of their scheduled 'waketime' moving through various overlapping realities via their grID visors.

But now the precarious balance of OneWorld is tipping as the largest of the global corporations launches the next phase of networking: One Network, or 'ON'. By the time Youren Cartouche, a copywriter working on the advertising campaign for ON, and Constantin Zann, an advanced bio-mechanical detective investigating the strange murder of a human girl, both uncover the truth, they will be fighting for their very existence within a reality disintegrating around them.

ON Details

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From Reader Review ON for online ebook

Kerri (Book Hoarder) says

This one is not for me, unfortunately. I think that some readers will absolutely adore it - the world building is interesting, and the concept is fascinating. Unfortunately it jumped around a bit too much for my tastes, making it very difficult to keep track of what was going on, and although it's rare that I say this, the world building was almost too much - there was too much to remember and keep track of, and not enough connection with the characters.

Adrienne says

Overall, I really enjoyed this book. Honestly, it was a little bit of a slow start and about 1/2 way through it picked up. Once it picked up I really couldn't stop reading. I understand why the beginning was slower- it was setting the stage. It was giving you an understanding of how the world now worked. It was never really explained how the Earth became so toxic. Other things weren't ever explained right out either, you kind of had to use context clues to understand. Which is fine but not everyone is going to "get it." It's just going to be that kind of book.

You also expected all the characters to finally have some connection with each other- but it never gets to that point. For example- Zann never meets up with Youren. Did his investigation even turn up that Eva had known Youren? That they were in the same clinical study together?

I liked that it dealt with Quantum physics. The whole space/time thing and which reality is real. It was also interesting the way commercial companies were rewriting human history. It is true- is history were rewritten and the original history was lost or hidden from everyone then we essentially lose ourselves. It was just interesting the way that humans were losing their history and also themselves- literally. These companies were getting to the point that they were copyrighting a person's thoughts- like that person couldn't think for themselves lest they get into a copyright suit with a company.

It was interesting that there were any clear physical descriptions of characters. You got a sense of how they were physically based on personality and maybe an observation here or there. The only that jumped out at me where there was an actual physical description was when Youren was in Raf's mind as she remembered the PSYCON conference. The guy that got her in was described as seen through Youren's eyes- pretty much as a dirty(perverted) old man. You already got a sense of him being this way based on Raf's observations but it was interesting to get the actual description. It also makes you wonder- why this guy out of all the characters?

I really liked a couple of the characters- Youren and Zann. I really wanted to know so much more about them. I know Zann was an android but it was almost like he was getting to the point of having human emotions and almost being looked down upon for that by fellow androids. Youren was just intriguing- he was the one that was the most down to earth and yet the one that couldn't connect with anyone. Was it because he was really in the box and not really connecting with them in their current reality? I really wanted to know more about what happened during the clinical study with ON. What finally made them see him as such a high risk that he had to be trapped in a box.?

Overall- great read. Not one of those beach reads necessarily as I found myself twice having to reread a part of it. But that's good it's not one of those put down books. Very enjoyable.

Dave says

This review also posted at [The Book of Bogan](#)

I must admit that I hate when a novel is noted as a "cross between" two things, particularly where it claims more famous cousins. In the case of *On* by Jon Puckridge it was the works of William Gibson, and the movie *Bladerunner*. My healthy suspicion about such comparisons was well-founded as I discovered.

Oh it began well enough, with a certain Gibson-esque atmosphere to this dystopian future, but it soon deteriorated. There are hints at some of Max Barry's ideas around corporatisation and commodification of everything in the future. I was also reminded of Neal Stephenson's cyberpunk books - before he began writing encyclopedia-sized tomes.

I found this book downright confusing as all hell. There are constant switches in viewpoint, and almost all of them are told in first person. I concluded that about the only thing people were 'On' by the end of it was a boatload of drugs. As soon as I had begun to get a grasp on what was going on, Puckridge was off on another tangent to parts unknown.

I finished the book, but only just. I genuinely felt that I came away not knowing what the hell I just read. It was like a melting pot of recycled plots and ideas from Cyberpunk and Science Fiction novels and movies from the past 30 odd years. And I just didn't care.

Disclaimer: I received an ARC of this book from NetGalley in return for an honest review.

I can't recommend this novel. Interesting ideas, with confusing and poor execution.

2/5 stars.

Kallierose says

This was a really interesting dystopian society with concepts that made me think quite a bit, but at about 80% something happened that had me scratching my head and going "huh?" for the rest of the story. I just didn't get it (and still don't). That, coupled with a couple of other issues, forced me to give it three stars.

I know that it is supposed to be an unproofed copy, but someone needs to know when to use "its" versus "it's". There are many simple grammar and spelling errors like that, and nothing throws me out of the story more quickly than having to re-read a sentence because I didn't understand it.

Also, I think that several of the characters served little or no purpose and could have been deleted entirely. So many times we skipped from one character to another and so much of it seemed like filler. More attention should have gone into the main characters, including more backstory for Youren.

I received a copy of this book in return for an honest review.

Karen Fainges says

Asked to review this book I had little idea what it was about.

Getting switched "On" to this book takes a bit of concentration. If you don't like books that jump around or change perspective, this is not the book for you.

If you like to really consider the meaning of reality, if Descartes's phrase, "I think therefore I am" is worth looking examining, then read this book NOW.

Comparing the outlooks of a business man, a physics geek, an advertising copywriter and a self-aware android while they try to work out reality sounds a bit, well, off with the pixies. Set against the backdrop of a murder enquiry, it's actually fascinating.

Not for the lazy reader, this book makes you think. Which proves you exist I suppose. Maybe.

Manvinder says

I received this book from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review

I'm so sorry, but I have to give this book 1.5 stars. I did not finish this book.

From the moment I started, I was left confused. The starting lines of the first chapter weren't really ones you could say *draw* you in to the story, but nevertheless, I kept reading it, hoping that something better was bound to come along.

I was proved wrong. As I progressed on from the point of view of Youren Cartouche, I felt like I didn't know what the *hell* was going on. Because, I didn't. Technical elements of the story such as the grID were poorly explained. To be honest, I had *no clue* about what was going on in this story. And that made me frustrated.

This had the potential to be great, as suggested in the blurb, but ultimately, it was a no-go for me.

Travis Jackson says

Bit of a challenge for me. Halfway through the book, I still had trouble remembering who was human and who was a robot. Some parts were in first person, others in third. Bouncing around from one planet to another (I think?) and in a time that is not our own and not explained. Maybe I missed a couple things in reading while thinking "what the heck am I reading?"

If you're an I Robot or A.I. fan, this might be a book for you. I just couldn't get into it.

Sharon says

Hague Publishing and NetGalley provided me with an electronic copy of *ON*. This is my honest opinion of the book.

Youren Cartouche is working on the advertising campaign for *ON*, or One Network, which is poised to replace the current grid visor. Engrafts link the individuals neutrally, allowing them access to a plethora of information that resides in the network. While the grid visor, which users wear like a pair of glasses and can be simply turned off, the *ON* apparatus is implanted. Youren soon starts to realize that all is not as it seems, but will he put the pieces together in time?

ON is a science fiction novel with a premise that seems far fetched, but probably involves ideas that are already on the periphery. *ON* is a book with an interesting concept, but has poor execution of said ideas. It is hard to decipher who is speaking most of the time and this ruins the continuity of the book. I really did not feel a connection to the main character or the story, perhaps because I spent so much time trying to figure out what was occurring. For these reasons, I would not recommend this book to other readers.

Melek says

ON shouldn't have been a novel.

It could be one of those little (or enormous) notebooks that some authors use to collect and save their ideas. I would love to get my hands on something like that, especially considering he proved that he has gorgeous ideas. On the other hand, as a novel, the book is a bit too suffocating. The ideas in it can spin your head, but the writing might not; it didn't work for me. Nor the flat characters or partly-interesting plot. Again, the ideas are sexy as hell, but it did not work as a novel. **2.5/5**

Brenda says

1.5★s

I am having trouble working out how to review this dystopian novel by Aussie author Jon Puckridge. We are immediately thrust into Youren Cartouche's world where humans and rooins interact together under a strict government rule. The planet of OneWorld has every product linked to the grID; humans have selected times for "waketime" and "sleepetime"; the grID visors conduct their realities.

But when One Network (*ON*) is launched to overtake the previous way of doing things, the balance creates a tenuous existence for Youren and Constantin Zann – when a sinister plot is uncovered, their way of life begins to crash around them all.

Confused? Yes so am I. I found myself completely unable to connect with the characters, events jumped around in a very random fashion and with so much to remember, it felt suffocating and far too strange. This dystopian novel is not for me I'm afraid, and I am also unable to recommend it.

With thanks to NetGalley and the publisher for my copy to read and review.

Iain Clements says

I received an advanced copy of this book from Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

ON explores a dystopian future where all of humanity is connected via sub dermal implants into the 'One Network' or 'ON'.

At first, the promise of everyone being connected together and always 'ON' seems promising, but as if often the case the reality is quite different and quite dark in tone.

The story evolves around the two central characters of Youren Cartouche, a marketing copywriter responsible for advertising ON to humankind, and Constantin Zann, an android 'rooin' detective who is involved in several cases relating to the clandestine development of ON.

Jon Puckridge explores a lot of concepts in this novel and I found several of them really interesting. For example, in this story all aspects of humanity have been privatised, even Time and History. No citizen of Medusa, the main city featured in the story, knows what time it is unless they pay for an update.

Additionally, history is being continually re-written by the owners to the point where only the ultra-rich can afford to access 'real' historical information. Both of these factors contribute to the perilous situation that humanity finds itself in once everyone is combined into a single network.

I enjoyed ON, however there are so many concepts and ideas being explored throughout that at times I found it a difficult read. I have seen some other reviewers comment that this novel needed a bit more room to breathe and I would agree with that.

Several of the ideas explored are brought to a rapid and slightly unsatisfactory close by the novel's end whereas they certainly had more room to grow and develop.

In summary, ON is a challenging but rewarding read overall with an impressive number of ideas and layers for a debut novel.

More reviews: <http://publishing-adventures.blogspot...>

Luke says

Originally reviewed at <http://wp.me/p4Wvzn-1cj>

Two Nerds Talking received an advanced review copy of the novel ON by author Jon Puckridge, in exchange for a fair and honest review...and here at Two Nerds Talking, we don't do things any other way.

ON is set in a future where capitalism has become the main driving force of humanity, creating a world

where the governments and super-corporations all fight for a share of the market. a world where everything is privatised even down to something as simple as checking the time.

All of humanity, every product and service connects wirelessly to the grID, a global network accessed by use of VR-like visors worn by each citizen.

ON centers around the introduction of the One Network (ON) which will connect humanity in a way never before realised, through the implantation of "engrams" which essentially enable telepathic communication and connection to the grID without use of hardware.

The most prominent characters in the book, Youren Cartouche and Constantin Zann are both wonderfully written and very well realised, with a good portion of the book written from Youren's first person perspective.

Both characters have completely different and unrelated plots to begin with, but in a truly amazing feat of story telling, the author weaves several seemingly unrelated plots together into one beautiful tapestry of a story.

ON is a fantastic piece of literature, explores some amazing and unique concepts. It has to be said too, that ON is more than just a story, but serves also as a commentary on the human condition, the very nature of reality and the potential of humanity as a whole....though sadly, I lack the intelligence to fully appreciate the final act of the book.

My only criticism is that toward the end it did become a little "heavy" and while it was still a good read, I had trouble following the story. This may be down to the fact that I'm not exactly the sharpest tool in the shed....

Alex says

Puckridge creates an incredibly detailed and increasingly horrifying world where governments have been replaced by corporations and time and history have been licenced and copyrighted. ON borrows heavily from Bladerunner, showing a world where machines have more individuality and humanity than people, and people are clamouring to be connected to the One Network, an immersive system that connects every user to each other's thoughts and memories. ON explores the kind of issues we grapple with now; privacy in an increasingly connected world, the desire to keep up with the newest technology, and the increasing loss of ownership of our own identities. ON is not just a frightening prediction of global capitalism and intellectual property law gone mad, but it's an entertaining detective tale told from multiple perspectives.

Cassie says

I was intrigued by the premise of this book - set in the future with a slight cyberpunk feel where the next big thing are ON implants, allowing you to access datastreams using just your brain, so I got a copy from NetGalley.

The world building is great - there were a lot of things that I thought really made sense and could carry a lot

of discussion, like the privatisation of government (and everything else) and the development of neuroscience.

My struggle with the book was therefore the plot - it moves excessively slowly, and the story is also in fragments, switching back and forth between the point of views of the main characters but also random other people. It also felt that both plot and characterisation were thin exactly because there was so much description of the world building, when much of it was unnecessary - and also necessary explanations about the world such as what rooins are, were skipped.

It became difficult to see how everything linked up and, more importantly, why I should care about these characters.

Karsyn says

I like to think that I'm smart-ish. I'm not a genius but I read a lot, and I comprehend what I read, even when it's something like time travel, or virtual reality. I can understand the concepts and most of the time, even love what's going on.

I don't know what WHAT THE FUCK I'm reading with this book. I only made it 5% and had to delete it. There's no buildup, whatsoever. We're just thrown into an everyday day of some dude. He gets requested to meet some other dude. Then, there's a lady giving a demonstration, maybe of the two of them meeting, or maybe not? I have NO clue, and it's going back and forth between their conversation, which I can't follow, and her demonstration, which I do understand. It's just all over the place. I won't rate it, because I didn't read far enough, but I don't suggest reading this book!
