

INDUSTRY REVIEWS: SWARM

KIRKUS REVIEWS: RECOMMENDED

A computer security expert learns from an amazing secret ally that biblical end times prophecies are coming true as Chinese, Russian, and American sins edge the world toward war.

Debut author Morris spins a global conspiracy cyberthriller with threads drawn from both well-worn sources (the book of Revelation) and breaking news out of Washington, D.C. In 1995, hacker prodigy Cary Nolan, having meddled with the sinister secret-society affairs of New World Order elite Andre Strauss, is targeted for death. Strauss mistakenly kills not only Nolan's lover, Bianca Troon, but also his best friend and computer partner, Derek Taylor, while Taylor and Bianca are in post-coital bliss together. Shattered, Nolan switches identities with Taylor and, 26 years later, perpetuates the ruse as a maverick tech-security contractor to the National Security Agency.

Know that this is an alt-2021 in which a controversial, reckless, Russia-manipulated, power-mad president—Donald Trump is never mentioned but there's no doubt who the "stable genius" is—has been reelected. He lusts for a third term amid a post-pandemic recession and international chaos.

As events unfurl against a devastating Chinese computer-virus attack (and Strauss' machinations), Taylor/Nolan is investigated by beautiful Navy Lt. Jennifer Scott for his ties to rogue hackers. He goes on the run with the attractive enemy. Among the secrets he keeps from Jenn: His partner in the hacker underground is not human but a top-secret, escaped, sentient software program called SLVIA. SLVIA lately has been bombarding Taylor/Nolan with Scripture, reasoning that the Bible end times verses compute as accurate and are coming to pass as allegories of geopolitical upheaval and corruption. Verily, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than to count all the Bible prophecy/apocalypse novels out there. But Morris' specimen stands out for not being conservative-megachurch recruiting material (instead blasting the alt-right Trump GOP and QAnon believers something fierce) and for coordinating **a grandly indulgent, globe-trotting narrative in the Dan Brown/Iris Johansen style.**

The novel brims with wild characters, exotic settings, a skillful embroidering of CNN headlines, and mind-blowing concepts, into which the religious stuff fits snugly. Readers may heed the spiritual messages (if any) or just go along for the ride. It does seem a little unfair to poor Trump, though. Without his insane reign, this story wouldn't feel half as terrifyingly plausible. **A riveting tale with globe-circling, cloak-and-cyber skullduggery and strong Bible code underpinnings.**

Red Headed Book Lover by Aimee



SWARM is a thrilling novel that will excite readers from start to finish thanks to the captivating story that takes the reader on **a thrilling and breathtaking journey!** **SWARM for me was an engrossing read that enthralled me from the very first page to the very last;** I struggled to put this book down because I desperately wanted to know what was going to happen to the novels memorable characters and I felt this way thanks to the author's incredible writing that compelled me to read! Guy Morris is a talented

and well-accomplished author and his work is gripping as well as riveting and holds a host of fantastic characters! Already I have to recommend this novel for you lovely readers to read, but if you need more convincing then continue to read to learn more about the incredible SWARM!

SWARM is an exceptional novel that will take its readers on an adventure like no other. The tale of SWARM is gripping, glorious, and let's not forget breath-taking! This novel truly did astound me with its captivating narration and thrilling plotline in which many twists and turns occur. As well as it is a great, espionage and thriller novel, it is also a ***unique, diverse one which is unlike your typical thriller*** and I have to say that I adored this because I was getting very tired of reading the same old books so thank you, Guy Morris, for writing a book that is ***fresh, exciting and gripping!***

Guy Morris can only be described as a talented, accomplished writer who knows what a reader wants in a great novel! As I read SWARM, I read every sentence slowly so that I could absorb all of the novel's information; I felt as if I was there and it made for an immersive reading experience. Morris is an excellent writer who is well accomplished and his work astounded me from the very beginning thanks to his original plot, as well as his compelling characters that in turn made me invest in the story even more!

To conclude my thoughts on the thrilling novel that is SWARM, I would say ***if you are bored with the same old espionage and thriller cliches then take a chance with this gem because you will not be disappointed. It has everything you would want in a great novel, and that is spine-tingling good content, dynamic, memorable characters,*** and a brilliant author. SWARM, of course, gets five stars from me! So be sure to have a read of the preview book lovers, you won't regret it!

Pacific Book Review by Tony Espinoza ★★★★★

This is a whirlwind, action packed thriller! The author immediately sets the tone for the narrative by setting up antihero Derek Taylor's history and the reason he has gone on the run. Forced to leave behind his old life, the hacker becomes a part of an even larger story that focuses on key themes like corruption, revenge, morality and more. ***The story feels part science fiction – part spy thriller,*** as readers are taken all around the world, getting multiple POVs and getting a cohesive narrative which speaks to the author's ability to create complex themes and pair them with equally complex characters.

This is the perfect read for those who enjoy spy thrillers, action and adventure thrillers and anything involving AI and the morals of developing artificial intelligence. As a fan of the genre, it was easy to get wrapped up in the dramatic world the author crafted. ***The book created the same heart-pounding and depth-filled reading experience that films like the Bourne Identity films*** have created visually over the years, and the attention to detail regarding not only the AI systems but the complex political and military moments as well made this story stand out.

Action-driven, character developed and lengthy yet attention-grabbing, author Guy Morris's SWARM: Artificial Intelligence Decodes End Time Prophecies takes on a truly engaging and entertaining narrative. Filled to the brim with a wide variety of obstacles for the cast of characters to overcome, from AI and corruption within political and religious spheres to secret organizations and emotional and complex histories for some of the characters, this novel is too good for readers to pass up on. Be sure to take the time and find your own copy to find out whether or not there is any truth to the End World Prophecies that become the driving force in this incredible read.

Reader's Favorite by K.C. Finn



Author Guy Morris has **crafted a superb tale of advanced weaponry, espionage and conspiracy which fans of the action and thriller genres are sure to adore.** One of the most impressive features of the work is how balanced and well-paced the plot is, delivering intelligently penned, high-concept science fiction right alongside powerful action moments, dynamic conversation and Taylor's expert prowess. Thanks to the attention to detail and cinematic style descriptions, the **work feels highly immersive and realistic.** I also enjoyed the developmental work that clearly went into Jennifer, making her so much more than the simple token woman seen in this genre so often. She and Taylor made a formidable and evenly-matched team against the visceral horrors which awaited them. **Overall, I would certainly recommend Swarm for fans of conspiracy dramas at their very best.**

Reader's Favorite by Vincent Dublado



Guy Morris **starts Swarm at a good pace and it ramps up as you are carried along** when Taylor becomes a fugitive and Lt. Scott is getting deeper into her investigation. As Taylor tries to stay alive against getting tracked down and killed, Scott goes about her job and the unexpected turn of events has given them a choice to forge a partnership to prevent a high-tech act of terrorism.

Swarm does its best to make sure that you care about the characters as demonstrated by their backgrounds that affect how they function in the present that they face. The prose is easy on the eye and the acronyms are generously introduced at the beginning of the story. The tech and biblical references help to flesh out the plot, and it **will make you want to stick with the story from start to finish.**

Reader's Favorite by Romuald Dzemo



Swarm: Artificial Intelligence Decodes End Time Prophecies by Guy Morris is a **deftly plotted and brilliantly written thriller that will entice fans of conspiracy and espionage.** . . . Guy Morris has written a novel that is gripping and intense when it comes to the action and plot points. **The characters are extraordinary and they are pulled from strong backgrounds, including the Joint Artificial Intelligence Command, the CIA, the US Senate and Congress, National Security, Artificial Intelligence Task Force,** and many others.

The writing is crisp and gorgeous, and I enjoyed the descriptions and how the author explores the intelligence and state of mind as well as the emotions of the characters. The author weaves details into the characters and the plot in a way that is fascinating. **The vocabulary is rich and the imagery is exceptionally written. Swarm: Artificial Intelligence Decodes End Time Prophecies is cleverly plotted, gripping, featuring characters that are rock-solid and a conspiracy that feels real.**

US Book Review by Carolyn Davis



"The VR display refreshes again to show security video from the top ten floors. Derek spins the VR until he spots a man exiting a room wearing a wide-brim hat with a long leather coat, and carrying a gun bag."

Derek Taylor is an operative of the National Security Agency who has assumed the identity of a friend who was murdered, apparently during a liaison with Taylor's girlfriend. His background involves activity with a terrorist organization, and plot twists abound. A rogue AI program, SLVIA, is missing from an NSA laboratory, and Taylor has it. SLVIA warns Taylor that an AI program developed by the Chinese may break "the fifth seal of end-time prophecy." A defective AI program, released by people whose access to information is at the highest level, is added to the chaos. The end of the world may be coming unless Taylor and the woman sent to investigate him for his terrorist activities can fix all the problems in time. The two have something of an antipathy to working together. SLVIA is vulnerable, as well, but there is no choice. The sense of dead ends that introduce beginnings is common throughout the narrative.

There are many strengths in the development of the story. For all of its drama, the situations line up in real time and places. The characters display emotion as well as logic, trauma, and a certain type of patriotism as they work against personal danger and, ultimately, global annihilation. The agencies and departments referenced, such as the CIA, the US Congress, National Security Agency, and Artificial Intelligence Task Force, are genuine, and aspects of the story relate to some actual data. The themes of dystopia, illustrated by deception and chaos, are introduced in the book's first pages. **A nerve-wracking thriller, the book is well researched and presented with brilliance.**

Consumer Review by Derek Christensen

Couldn't put this book down

Swarm is absolutely brilliant; Guy has written a thriller I could not out down. ***I am a huge Dan Brown fan and I feel that Guy is right there with him. If you loved the DaVinci Code then Swarm is right up your alley.*** Help support this great author and pick up a copy of Swarm today!

Consumer Review by Nicodemus Black

Great writing and immersive plots! Highly relevant and contemporary.

The storyline is incredibly immersive and the characters are very deep. I am delighted by the way this plot unfolds and how Morris brings a technical subject into a very easy to follow storyline that is highly relevant and fascinating. It is a very intellectually stimulating read. ***Highly recommended.***

Consumer Review by Greg Andersen

This storyline may become reality someday soon.

SWARM is one of the most exciting, riveting and thought-provoking books I have read. The characters are wonderful and the storyline realistic, sometimes frightening in that this may become reality someday! ***I have read the book twice!***

Consumer Review by Jack Teetor

A PULSE-POUNDING GRAB YOU BY THE THROAT THRILL RIDE

Author Guy Morris is a *master of intrigue, tension and in control of his craft, transporting you into an immersive world of Artificial Intelligence, political corruption and intense military maneuvering*. If this is not enough for you, Morris will thrust you into the unraveling of secret organizations, religious domains and deep insight into the End World Prophecies throughout this journey.

Derek Taylor, our hacker antihero at large, is propelled into dangerous international intrigue forced to locate and kill an evil AI virus and deal with the complexity of the rogue AI SLVIA to help stop an AI weapon system gone horribly wrong. The elusive Derek, during his journey, must cope with the annoying, tense, yet beautiful Lieutenant Jennifer Scott of Naval Intelligence assigned to investigate him and find SLVIA. And Derek cannot get rid of her.

Guy Morris has written an electrifying page-turner of a thrill-seeking novel with only a few moments to even catch your breath. The “must read” book of the year.

Consumer Review by MSS

One of the best novels I have read in years!

If I was chosen to give an award for the best novel of the year, Swarm, would be the winner hands down. A techno-thriller but with much more. Action, science, conspiracy, current political climate, and even end of time prophecy are woven into an exciting story. I glad that this is just the beginning. Well done!

Consumer Review by Aloha

Amazing and scary depiction of current events

Fast paced techno politico thriller. 10 stars. Chilling inclusion of current political events and realistic parallels. The AI escape is REAL!

Consumer Review by SheenaM

Riveting

Swarm by Guy Morris is a gripping tale of unlikely heroes pitted against even more unlikely foes. The story is riveting and incredibly fast-paced. Building an intricate covert operation from the very first chapter, Morris continues to layer intrigue upon intrigue throughout the story, making Swarm a tough book to put down. Each detail matters and each nuance carry massive weight, making for an engaging read. The author weaves together pieces of his character’s development and dialogue with ease, building a vivid image in the reader’s mind of the protagonist’s motives and the ‘why’ behind his actions. The AI components are very well explained and described so as to make it realistic and also mind boggling. *Guy Morris wrote a winner with Swarm and I look forward to more work from this author.*

REVIEWED BY [Fangirling Over Frappes](#) Worth reading 😊

A fast-paced techno-thriller that incorporates spirituality and technology beautifully.

SYNOPSIS

SLVIA . . . decades ago, an AI program escaped the NSA Lawrence Livermore Laboratory, and has never been re-captured . . . true story.

SWARM is a fast-paced techno-thriller that incorporates spirituality and technology beautifully.

Derek Taylor, a fugitive hacker and contractor to the National Security Agency, is living under the name of a murdered best friend after his girlfriend and his best friend are murdered in a botched attempt on his own life. There are powerful people in the play who want him dead. He erased everything about his previous life and immersed himself into the life of his best friend, Derek, and became him.

His company's alleged connection to a terrorist hacker group called SNO leads Lt. Jennifer Scott, the daughter of a Joint Chief to begin an investigation on Derek and SLVIA, an AI program that escaped the NSA Lawrence Livermore Laboratory decades ago and has never been re-captured.

Jennifer has been investigating SNO and SLVIA for years and is determined to get the truth from Derek, who is not willing to give them up. But when the Chinese release a virus to target SLVIA, they have to work together to prevent Armageddon. They travel to various continents to stop the AI virus from crippling America and destroying SLVIA.

The plot was invigorating with many similarities to the current situation. The author had wonderfully blended religion into the story which is futuristic in nature. SLVIA as an AI was an important character in the development of the story. I loved watching her work and her banter with Derek.

The plot traveled to different locations constantly that it was a bit hard to pin down what was going on. It was difficult to pique my interest in the beginning. But as the story progressed and various characters came into play, it started to feel like a thriller and I could not wait to find the answers.

The plot execution felt a bit sloppy at times and it took a while to combine the various pieces. But once we could get a hang of the storyline, it travels along beautifully and delivers the action it has promised.

[Official Review: Swarm by Guy Morris](#)

4 out of 4 stars



For decades, computer scientists, geeks, hackers, and the like have raced to create the holy grail of all computer systems: artificial intelligence (AI). The search to create a computer system that not only interacts with humans but also learns has consumed many people. Could it be possible that one already exists? In 1993, an AI program was sent to crawl the web for intelligence but did not return when called. Written by Guy Morris, *Swarm* is the alarming story of what could happen.

Heads of state, intelligence agencies, military figures, and one man serving the Bilderberg organization—known to many conspiracy theorists as the Illuminati—all collide in this gripping tale of possibilities. An escaped AI program, SVLIA, chooses one man as the confidant for all her observations. Cary Nolan, a.k.a., Derek Taylor, acts globally as he hears SVLIA speak into an earpiece. SVLIA is the ultimate secret. If the existence of such a creation were known, all possible efforts would be made to destroy such a thing.

Dr. Nelson Garrett has created another AI program with military capabilities. In front of a captivated audience on a military test site in Nevada, Nelson showcases drones that are capable of swarming into enemy territory and intelligently deciding which targets are military (to be killed instantly) and which are innocent civilians (to be left in peace). When the drones refuse to come back to base when called, Nelson is alarmed, but politicians sweep his concerns aside.

An intelligent virus is released in the world, systematically knocking out all strategic systems one by one. Government officials scramble to discover what country is responsible and how to handle the crisis. Of course, politics get in the way. The stage is set for the end of all known systems.

Meanwhile, SVLIA has found religion. When SVLIA begins to quote prophetic passages from the last book of the Bible into Derek's ear, he is first puzzled and annoyed but rapidly becomes spooked. Derek races to change events that may be inevitable. Can he cut off the virus at the root with SVLIA's help, or is he on a quest that will not only fail but also claim his life?

I found *Swarm* to be quite intriguing, rather like the ultimate apocalypse plot. The world is not overcome with zombies or a virus but is on a predetermined timeline. Once events are set in motion, there will be no return to life as we know it. It is the beginning of the end. For an end-of-the-world story, this is fairly plausible if you can accept the idea of a highly advanced artificial intelligence. The author set his story in the near future, referencing the current pandemic as well as other modern events. This made the ideas put forth much more frightening than if he had set the book a hundred years from now. A downside to this setting was a thread of thinly veiled references to actual current political figures. Politics are messy, but I would enjoy the book more as stand-alone fiction, rather than a political commentary. Thankfully this was not the main theme of the book.

Somewhat unusual for what could be considered science fiction, I thought the characters to be developed well, with several undergoing personal growth and transformation. The book was also edited exceptionally well. In a book this length, this is an astonishing feat. While I enjoyed reading this book very much, the complex story required a complicated setup. Some of the plot threads at first seemed disconnected enough that it took me several chapters before I began to see a bigger picture emerge. Once this happened, it was hard for me to put the book down. For me, an additional bonus was the absence of sexual material. Only one brief incident is alluded to in the prologue. After that, the hint of romance between a couple of the key characters happens somewhat naturally in the storyline. With all the action, a romantic interlude would have been unnecessary. I am glad that the author kept that out. An interesting book with a satisfying plot, clean editing, and solid character development deserves a **4 out of 4 stars** rating.