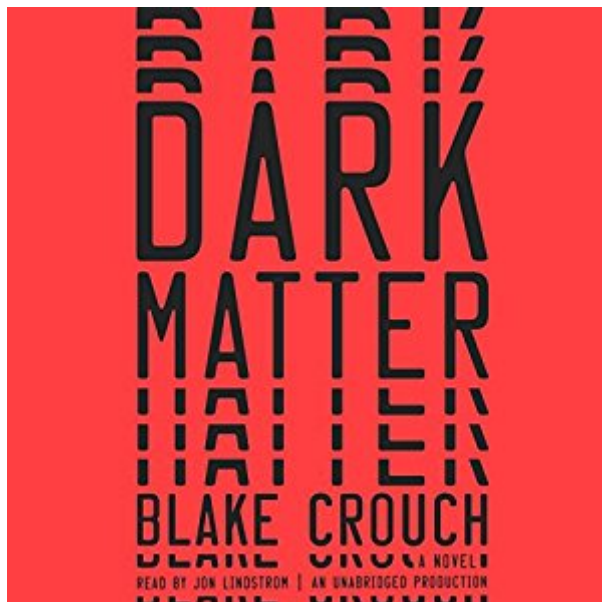


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Dark Matter: A Novel



Synopsis

"Are you happy with your life?" Those are the last words Jason Dessen hears before the masked abductor knocks him unconscious. Before he awakens to find himself strapped to a gurney, surrounded by strangers in hazmat suits. Before a man Jason's never met smiles down at him and says, "Welcome back, my friend." In this world he's woken up to, Jason's life is not the one he knows. His wife is not his wife. His son was never born. And Jason is not an ordinary college physics professor but a celebrated genius who has achieved something remarkable. Something impossible. Is it this world or the other that's the dream? And even if the home he remembers is real, how can Jason possibly make it back to the family he loves? The answers lie in a journey more wondrous and horrifying than anything he could've imagined - one that will force him to confront the darkest parts of himself even as he battles a terrifying, seemingly unbeatable foe. From the author of the best-selling *Wayward Pines* trilogy, *Dark Matter* is a brilliantly plotted tale that is at once sweeping and intimate, mind-bendingly strange and profoundly human - a relentlessly surprising science-fiction thriller about choices, paths not taken, and how far we'll go to claim the lives we dream of.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

As you look back on your life, do you see forks in the road - clear points in time where you made a decision and left another possible life behind? For Jason Dessen, a college physics professor, those abandoned possibilities are about to catch up with him. *Dark Matter* is a dark quantum physics

thriller woven with an intimate story of love lost - and the lengths one goes to regain it. Blake Crouch spins this yarn in a suspenseful and twisty way that leaves you guessing the whole way through. Themes of lost opportunity and a realization that the grass is not always greener follow our main character throughout, compelling the reader to push on. This is a truly wonderful read. Crouch challenges us, through a surprisingly science fiction path, to reconsider regrets, and embrace that which we already have. Crown Publishing has gripped my attention with *Dark Matter*. You can find *Dark Matter* at major retailers and your local independent booksellers everywhere.

So, at the time of writing this review, I haven't quite finished reading this book, but I'm close enough to the end, and I've found it difficult enough to put it down, that I can say it's one of the best books I've ever read. If you like science fiction that stimulates you intellectually, if you like action, if you like romance, there's plenty of all of that in here. Now, admittedly, I figured out the "reveal" that came in the middle of the book pretty early on, but that didn't make the story any less beautiful and intense. *ahem* Jason Dessen is an extremely overqualified college physics professor. In his youth, he was well on his way to making an enormous breakthrough in quantum mechanics, but gave up his research to focus on his family, much like his extremely talented wife gave up her very promising art career. One night, on his walk back home from having a drink with an old friend, a stranger in a mask holds him at gunpoint, and asks him "Are you happy with your life?" before drugging him, rendering him unconscious. When he awakens, he finds himself in a lab he's never been to, staring at a man he's never met who greets him as an old friend. As he further explores this world he's woken up to, he discovers that his wife is a very famous artist using her maiden name, that his son has apparently never existed, and that he himself is an award winning scientist who did in fact make that breakthrough he had been working on years ago, changing everything he thought was possible about quantum mechanics. Pros: This book is the very definition of an emotional roller coaster. It's not only a brilliant, intelligent piece of science-fiction, but also an amazing story that will make you ponder your own life, and about the road less traveled. Cons: The artist writes like this some times. Like a lot. Like every other page. For an entire pages. But this is admittedly being nit-picky, it's not nearly enough to take away from how well-written the story is.

It would be impossible to review this book without spoiling it. The best I can do, and in tribute to what I just read, is to describe my journey. I picked this up and started reading it this morning. And I didn't stop. I read it while I watered the garden, I read it while talking to other sci-fi nuts, I read it while I made dinner, and I finally finished it at 9:30 PM. Constantly flipping page after page, I

could not put it down! I kept thinking I knew how it would end. I was wrong every single time. What did I just read?? Truly mind-blowing, Dark Matters asks the reader to remember a time in their life where they made a decision that set them on track to who they are now, a moment that has defined them. If given the chance, would they make that same decision or not? If you knew the second chance offered you the wealth and prestige you let slip from your grasp, would you take it? And that's a deal breaker for me! What if the family you created and loved was not a part of that second chance? Last question, would you regret your final decision? It makes you think, doesn't it? Filled with lots of scientific gobbled-gook that I had to skim over, Dark Matters is a hell of a book. I mean, I did learn about Schrödinger's Cat. So many twists. So many monkey wrenches. So many times my eyes popped open wide as I said "NO WAY!!" It's a crazy, crazy book that just speeds along like a train looking to wreck. Highly highly recommend for time travel nerds, sci-fi geeks, thriller freaks, conspiracy theorists and Blake Crouch fans everywhere. Enjoy!

Intense and entertaining read. However, some 50 years ago I read almost the same book by a contemporary of HG Wells, though I cannot recall the name. Of course some details were different....the 'time machine' was mechanical rather than using theoretical physics and there was not the same intense love story. But the book was essentially the same, written for audiences of the day. That should not dissuade you from reading this book, not at all. If anything, we should congratulate Mr. Crouch (and his editor) for being widely read in obscure literature. The book certainly inspires one to contemplate the nature of infinity. For example, if 99.8% of the replicated main character perish in the frozen world, then there are still an infinite number of them to repopulate the 'home' world. In fact, there would still be an infinite number of them who end up in the 'escape' world as well.

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