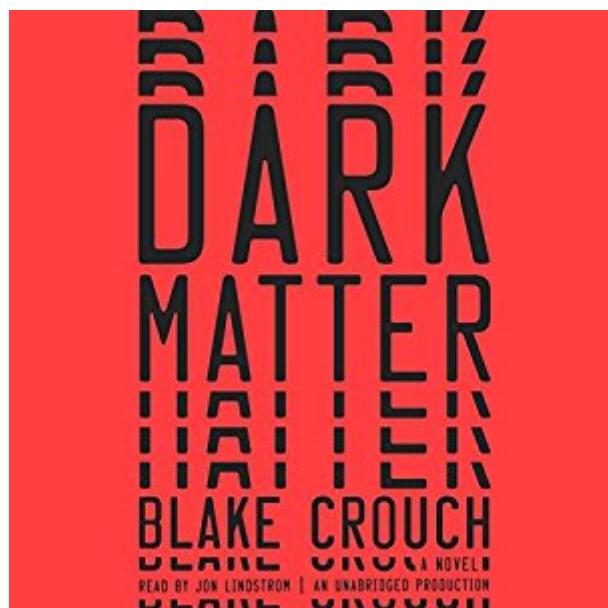


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# Dark Matter: A Novel



## 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

I'm new to the author although I saw Wayward Pines on TV. This book is the fastest read I've picked up in a long time. You can (and will) motor through it in a day. There are a lot of themes here: the scientific method, the boundaries of the possible, the road not taken. The book is sort of a Mobius

strip folding in on itself. Our protagonist Jason is challenged for his fundamental being. The best part of the book for me was the plot process of solving the problems presented. The writing is addictively captivating and would not let me go. In some ways I was more entranced during the reading than afterwards. This is a clever, creative and tightly wound plot. I am not willing to say much about the content for fears of ruining it. Enjoyed it very much, great for those who like blended genres. For me it was less science fiction than mystery and thriller. I hope you enjoy it!

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 "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 gobble-gook that I had to skim over, Dark Matters is a hell of a book. I mean, I did learn about Schrodinger'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 recommend for time travel nerds, sci-fi geeks, thriller freaks, conspiracy theorists and Blake Crouch fans everywhere. Enjoy!

It's difficult to say too much about this book without getting into spoiler territory. The premise that serves as the foundation of this book is a sci-fi staple, but on top of that, the author has layered a fast-paced action-filled chase, a story of lasting love, and an exploration of how the person we become is shaped by the events we encounter, both in the long term and the short term. I read this book in two days. Once I started it, it was hard to put down. The fast pace and twisting plot kept me reading to find out what was going to happen next. Overall, characterization is adequate, but certainly not the strongest element of the story. My absorption in the book was driven more by a desire to find out what was going to happen next than because I cared deeply about the main character. For those of you who, like me, are interested in this book because you loved the author's

Wayward Pines trilogy, you will probably love this one, as well, although the premise is not the same.

I was told this was 'a whole new genre of sci-fi!' Sure it is, if this genre is a movie pitch.

One-dimensional characters (including the questionable 'oh, okay' reaction from an of-course perfect wife), all centered around a character traveling through dimensions to find his one true love. It's basically *The Fugitive* meets *Doctor Who*. Both of those are more interesting. Don't waste your money, just watch those again.

First off: This is a fun enough read. OK? But people who are calling this a sci-fi masterpiece or a mind-blowing conceptual work of genius are well off the mark. Crouch's story is derivative at every turn -- even borrowing from his own work, the *Wayward Pines* series. There has been a lot of science fiction written over the last century, and a tiny percentage of it was indeed excellent and groundbreaking. This is good, but it is not mind-blowing or best-of-genre or anything like that -- not unless you've not bothered to seek out and absorb the very best out there. This is sci-fi for the network TV junkie, not for those who have soaked in dozens and dozens of the best sci-fi books ever produced. *The Long Earth* treats this concept in much more creative ways, and that was only a very good series. Again, this doesn't suck, but it doesn't elevate the genre. It's a made-for-TV movie in book form.

I really enjoyed the beginning of the book. I couldn't put it down. As it approached the middle and the end I kept reading but just to get through it. I was hoping for some great ending with some big twist I couldn't predict but I unfortunately was disappointed. I would go into more detail but I do not want to give anything away. I think the idea has promise but in the end it was too difficult to put on paper and the ending was forced.

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