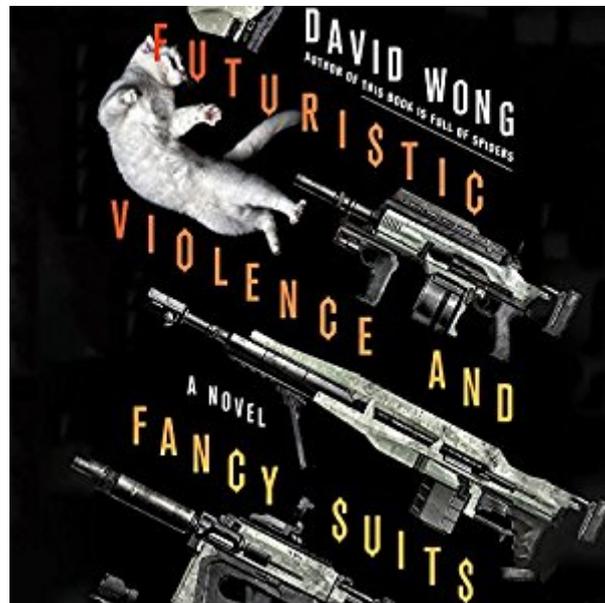


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# Futuristic Violence And Fancy Suits



## Synopsis

In a prosperous yet gruesomely violent near future, superhero vigilantes battle thugs whose heads are full of supervillain fantasies. The peace is kept by a team of smooth, well-dressed negotiators called The Men in Fancy Suits. Meanwhile a young girl is caught in the middle and thinks the whole thing is ridiculous. Zoey, a recent college graduate with a worthless degree, makes a reluctant trip into the city after hearing that her estranged con artist father died in a mysterious yet spectacular way. There she finds that her scumbag dad had actually, in the final years of his life, put his amazing talent for hustling to good use: He was one of the founding members of the Fancy Suits and died in the course of his duties. Zoey is quickly entangled in the city's surreal mob war when she is taken hostage by a particularly crazy villain who imagines himself to be a Dr. Doom-level mastermind. The villain is demanding information about Zoe's father when she is rescued by The Fancy Suits. She reluctantly joins their cause and helps finish what her old man started, tapping in to her innate talent for bullshit that she inherited from her hated father. And along the way, she might just have to learn how to trust people again.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

A really terrific read. Maybe not quite a 5 star book but 4 feels too low. Readers of John Dies At The End (or its sequel) will certainly recognize Wong's style here, but this book is really quite different, in setting and in structure. While JDATE was a contemporary horror-comedy with a gangly, tangent-filled structure, this is a near-future thriller with a tight, linear, fast-paced plot. This isn't

necessarily better - I quite liked the anything-goes weirdness of JDATE - but it certainly feels more developed and mature (in the sense of honing one's craft). The book follows a protagonist, Zoey Ashe, who is suddenly transported from a poor, unglamorous, trailer-park existence into the world of her recently deceased estranged biological father - a billionaire power-elite who is at the center of some very bizarre and very dangerous dealings that Zoey suddenly needs to deal with herself. Needless to say, life in the trailer park with her stripper mother hasn't prepared her very well for the task, and Wong gets a huge amount of both humor and drama from Zoey's fish-out-of-water situation; a poor young woman in a powerful rich man's world. Zoey is a great creation, although most other characters are presented as archetypes, albeit with hints of underlying complexity and humanity. I'll say that, occasionally, it felt like I was reading a movie pitch; this is custom made for the big screen, I think, with plenty of bits and scenes that would clearly \*look\* awesome and a pace and linearity that would be easy to adapt. I should emphasize that, primarily, this is first and foremost a zingy, snarky, fast-paced, tongue-in-cheek thriller and a fun read. That said, I would be pretty disappointed if that's the \*only\* thing the book offers - I certainly wouldn't give such a book five stars. This book has more - it's an indictment of the ugliness and shallowness that today's social media seems to be encouraging. Wong is a person of the internet - he's an editor at Cracked.com - and he clearly doesn't always like what he sees. Some of the more villainous types read like personifications of the ugliest, troll-ridden website comment-sections, and the way that the "Blink" - Wong's vision of social-media/reality-TV a few decades down the road - brings out the worst in its viewers doesn't feel too much like fiction to me. There's also more than a little commentary on economic inequality, as Zoey suddenly finds herself in a billionaire's place. I highly recommend it!

This book is amazing. It is like binge watching Futurama while playing a hyper real video game full of violence and insanity. If that doesn't sound like your thing, I am sorry I can not fully explain the brilliant madness that is Wong's Futuristic Violence and Fancy Suits. I became obsessed with his writing while reading John Dies at the End (also fantastic) and the writing in his second novel still haunts me to this day (in a good way.) If you want a unique reading experience that will leave you so fulfilled and wishing there was so so much more, this is exactly what you should be buying. Do it now. Don't wait. Stop. Don't click away. You must read this. Your life probably depends on it.

Boy I hope I clicked the right buttons up there. Newest book from David Wong, and this time it is a sci-fi comedy thriller I think. I'm terrible at genres. It takes place in the near future where social media is completely invasive and people have access to incredible technology. The bulk of the story

takes place in a city called Tabula Rasa where people with more money than sense have created a city free from laws where they can do anything they please. Buildings go up and come down constantly and the streets are filled with vendors for every food drink and drug you can imagine. Pretty sure someone was fighting a bear in the park in one scene. Anyway, the writing is similar to Wong's other books, so if you enjoy them, you'll enjoy this. This isn't a John and Dave adventure, and isn't horror, but I would really enjoy seeing more of this world.

If David Wong's first two books can be described as "snarky horror," this one qualifies as "snarky science fiction," and it's a much tighter tale than his earlier work. The plot moves briskly, everything ties in beautifully and yet most of the plot twists are unpredictable. The book resembles William Gibson's recent *The Peripheral* in that it involves an impoverished young woman in the near future thrust into the dangerous world of the extremely rich, and relying on her own wits and the experience of various employees and agents of the upper classes to survive. Frankly, I enjoyed it more than I enjoyed *The Peripheral*, and I'm giving five stars with the following caveats: 1. Many of the earnest characters sound the same as each other, and many of the snarky characters sound the same as each other, and 2. The ending is a bit of *deus ex machina*. Much of the development feels cinematic, and I bet this book is made into a movie. The main character would be played by Jennifer Lawrence, I think.

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