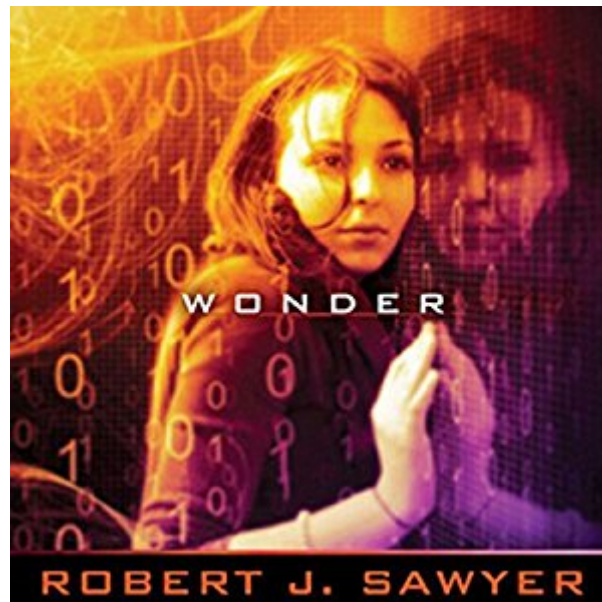# The book was found

WWW: Wonder

Synopsis

"A writer of boundless confidence and bold scientific extrapolation" (New York Times) concludes his mindbending trilogy. Webmind - the vast consciousness that spontaneously emerged from the infrastructure of the World Wide Web - has proven its worth to humanity by aiding in everything from curing cancer to easing international tensions. But the brass at the Pentagon see Webmind as a threat that needs to be eliminated. Caitlin Decter - the once-blind 16-year-old math genius who discovered, and bonded with, Webmind - wants desperately to protect her friend. And if she doesn't act, everything - Webmind included - may come crashing down. BONUS AUDIO: Includes an exclusive introduction written and read by author Robert J. Sawyer.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

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Customer Reviews

This was the third and final book in the WWW trilogy by Robert Sawyer. It was a fitting end to the series, but not as good as the previous two books. Some of the characters act very against their character and some things are put in the book just to make a statement on something (without adding to the story much). I listened to this on audio book and I highly recommend it. This is one of those series that is so well done on audio book that I think it is vastly better than reading the book on paper. You definitely need to read the previous two book to understand what happens in this book.The virtual entity Webmind has been discovered by the US government and they have tried, and failed, to shut Webmind down. With Webmind's existence out in the open the big question is, what next? Caitlin and her family are naturally drawn into the media frenzy surrounding Webmind.

The real question facing humanity is basically this: Is Webmind really benevolent or should measures be taken to shut it down while humanity still can? Humanity has some big decisions to make. Will Webmind survive or become just a blip in humanity's history?There are a lot of good things about this book. Many of the seemingly random things that happen in the previous books all come together and, as a reader, we can see that this book was meticulously planned out. So kudos to Sawyer for thinking things out so well. As with previous books there are a lot of political and social issues discussed. Most of them focus on the questions of a spontaneous entity like Webmind and what his presence means for humanity. Of course other issues weave through this main issue: there is discussion on Atheism, Communism, etc.Sawyer himself does an intro talking about how long it took him to finish this series (6 years) and how much technology had changed in that time. It is like he went out of his way to make sure this final book incorporated every little thing he could think of to make it as modern as possible. To that extent there is a lot of Twittering, Face-booking, as well as discussion about modern politics and references to companies like Google. There is even a Big Bang Theory quote in there from that popular sit-com (which I am a huge fan of). My only problem with this is that all these inclusions seem a bit contrived and forced at times.My other complaint are some of the things the characters themselves do that are way out of character. The one that really floored me was when Caitlin decides to take a cell pic of her naked chest and sexts it to Matt. It has me laughing my butt off with the ridiculousness of it all. I mean really a girl as smart as her, who is inexperienced sexually just wouldn't do something like that. She especially wouldn't do it when she is incredibly aware of how easy that data is to access and how insecure it is. And she wouldn't forget to delete it off of her phone; enabling her mom to find it later. I know Sawyer makes a comment about Webmind making her phone secure, but come on...any idiot knows that kind of thing is stupid to do from a secure data and privacy point of view. Now you ask why was this included in the story? Like many of the weird random things included in this book it was so Sawyer could make a point about the end of Victorianism in an Internet based society. Sawyer takes a number of instances to lecture at his readers; sometimes it is interesting...sometimes it is just awkward.The above being said, I really enjoyed some of the things Webmind does in this book. Some of them are really well thought out and almost make you wish you could live in that era and witness that kind of progress for humanity. Webmind's ultimate act of benevolence for humankind was intriguing, although I am not sure how realistic it really was. The story is wrapped up in a touchy, feely happy way that is as sweet as any happily ever after you have ever read. Sawyer includes an interesting epilogue that I am uncertain how I feel about. Some aspects of the epilogue are interesting, but I kind of feel like the book would have been better without it...that way the

readers would have just been left to Wonder.Overall this was an excellent conclusion to the series. The plot moves at a quick pace and many interesting issues are discussed. I was a little irked by the fact that the characters act out of character at times and there are numerous times where Sawyer takes opportunities to awkwardly lecture at his readers. These aspects made this my least favorite book of the three. Despite this, it was still an excellent read. I definitely recommend reading this series for anyone who has interest in artificial intelligence or emergent consciousness. This is a series that broaches these deep topics but makes them easy to relate to for a large demographic of readers. Having Caitlin as the main character really makes this book accessible to a young adult crowd as well and I think young adult and older would really enjoy it.

What is it with trilogies? They seem to have become de rigueur for contemporary authors, yet in my youth I cannot recall ever hearing of such a critter, much less reading one, but they seem to walk amongst us now and in growing numbers. As with numerous other such trilogies, Sawyer's WWW: WAKE, WATCH and WONDER must all be read in the proper order for his story to be fully comprehended and to discover the outcomes of the various threads. To my mind, each book is characterized by more or less identical strengths and weaknesses, and separate reviews would be largely repetitious; thus, one may suffice for all three books.Let's hit the strong point first: Sawyer has come up with an excellent idea for a story line. Having an evolving artificial intelligence spring into being on the World Wide Web is a fine science fiction theme and is contemporary to boot. Well, that's that, I'm afraid. Now we have to proceed to the difficulties in these books.The first book, WAKE, struck me immediately as a young reader's volume, primarily because of the author's unimaginative prose. The language is simple, the vocabulary basic, and the syntax straightforward almost to the point of ennui. If, by some happenstance, a word that might not be in a teenager's vocabulary does crop up, the author provides an instant definition, usually as an appositive in the same sentence. For instance, there is a sentence that mentions the loon, and the reader is immediately told that this is a water bird. I'm not at all sure whether young readers are being helped or are having their intelligence insulted.In the second book, WATCH, the reader is treated to a diversion from the main story line as we see Caitlin, an otherwise highly intelligent, rational and logical young lady with a astute knowledge of mathematics, begin obsessing over not losing her virginity by the precise age of 16.4 years, that supposedly being the average age at which such things are lost. Oh, and lest we forget that magic number, it is repeated ad nauseam both later in this book and in its successor. Why Caitlin suddenly mutates from a scholar to a nymphomaniac is never explained, but it seems totally out of character for her. That two sexually aroused teens then

end their grope fest by discussing the evolution of consciousness in humankind is just a tad unbelievable as well. Perhaps this is the author's attempt to convince us that these are really adult books.Throughout all three books, but particularly in the third, WONDER, the author creates multiple opportunities to editorialize on contemporary social issues. The reader is treated to commentary on homosexuality and gay rights, racial integration and civil rights, right wingers in U.S. politics, abortion rights, the irony of "flesh" colored Bandaids on Blacks, autism, and atheism. We're even treated to a short lecture on the necessity of voting, even if by absentee ballot. I almost hate to criticize Sawyer for all of this editorializing because my personal leanings on every such subject that he broaches agree quite well with his own; however, the sermonizing is too blatant, too obvious, and too much "in the reader's face." It is intrusive and is so artificially injected that it thoroughly interrupts the flow of the story. In short, I have no beef with what Sawyer says but I have copious problems with how and where he says it.The character of Hobo is yet another matter. One keeps waiting for Hobo and Webmind to somehow merge, not physically, of course, but thematically. At best, though, they touch only tangentially, and having Hobo address United Nations delegates while wearing a huge "smiley face" device through which Webmind speaks is ludicrous in the extreme. After this final indignity, Hobo essentially simply vanishes from the story as if the author has despaired of figuring out any way to make the ape significant.To be considered "good" fiction, I submit that it must be believable to the reader; that is, the reader must be able to lay aside disbelief and accept the story as being "real," even if only in a make-believe world. Isaac Asimov, Frank Herbert, H.G. Wells, Robert Heinlein, et al have accomplished that in many science fiction short stories and novels. Unhappily, in the WWW trilogy, Sawyer has not.

Stevie Wonder: Rhythms of Wonder Wonder Woman Classic: I Am Wonder Woman (I Can Read Level 2) La lecciÃ n de August: Wonder [August's Lesson: Wonder] I Wonder About Allah: Book One (I Wonder About Islam) Wonder DC Comics: Wonder Woman Coloring Book Junk Gypsy: Designing a Life at the Crossroads of Wonder & Wander Coloring DC: Wonder Woman Shojo Wonder Manga Art School: Create Your Own Cool Characters and Costumes with Markers Monument Valley: Navajo Nation Natural Wonder (Companion Press Series) Visions of Earth: National Geographic Photographs of Beauty, Majesty, and Wonder (National Geographic Collectors Series) The Wonder WWW: Wonder Bat Loves the Night: Read and Wonder One Tiny Turtle: Read and Wonder Chameleons Are Cool: Read and Wonder Growing Frogs: Read and Wonder Bill the Boy Wonder: The Secret Co-Creator of Batman Who Is Stevie Wonder? (Who Was...?) Lillian Trasher: The Greatest Wonder in Egypt (Christian Heroes: Then & Now)