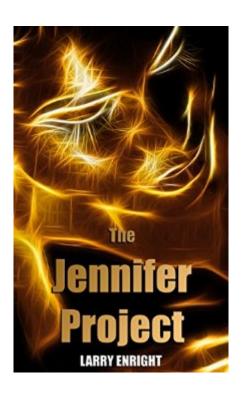
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The Jennifer Project





Synopsis

In 2096, Deever MacClendon creates Jennifer, the first proto-conscious cybernetic processor. It is hyper-intelligent, aware, and evolving. Deever wants to use his creation for the good of all, to help fix a broken world, but knowing what a powerful weapon it could be in the wrong hands, he hides it. When his secret is uncovered, he is forced to plunge into a high-tech morass of deception and treachery to avoid catastrophe and save a world where humans are no longer the most intelligent species.

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Customer Reviews

Though Larry Enrightâ ™s Jennifer Project features the same quirky, attractive characters that first drew me to this author so many novels ago, this time he adds an element of philosophyâ |the urgent kind. Deever MacClendon is an Al man with a bit of loose, looniness about him, but thereâ ™s a good heart too and, deep down, some anger at the inability of humanity to pull past its greed and bloodlust. So he assembles Jennifer, a â œproto-consciousâ • computer with the ability to learn quickly and, more importantly, to insinuate herself into the psyches of all 10 billion people on the

planet. But itâ ™s Deeverâ ™s mind that has the idea for improvement: alter Free Will in the human head to make violence against another unthinkable. Sort of like having no grapes in a bowl of fruit, our hero suggests: you can have an apple, a pear, whatever; but you canâ ™t choose a grape if itâ ™s not there. At first this sounded a bit too facile, but then there is social psychologist Jonathan Haidtâ ™s work with moral dumbfounding [The Righteous Mind] in which subjects refuse to consider unattractive courses of action despite being unable to express why. [The rationales are buried deep within subconscious notions formed by ancestors many millennia ago.] One could also suggest a relation to Asimovâ ™s rules of robotic behavior, but these arenâ ™t robots and Deeverâ ™s aim is to keep people vibrantly human. Of course, there are villains in the way. And a wonderful love interest, not coincidentally also named Jennifer. And thereâ ™s the authorâ ™s ever present talent for smart, wisecracking dialogue.

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