



Reality Hack

Niall Teasdale

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Reality: the state of things as they actually exist.

Reality is an illusion, albeit a persistent one. – Albert Einstein.

The belief that one's own view of reality is the only reality is the most dangerous of all delusions. – Paul Watzlawick.

Not creating delusions is enlightenment. – Bodhidharma.

Which delusion do I pick? – Nisa Harper, aspiring Reality Hacker.

If you discovered that magic was real, what would you do with it? Reveal it to the world, or keep it secret? Nisa Harper has just learned to make the impossible happen and is really beginning to wish she had kept it a little more secret than she did. Only a few days after discovering that magic is not only real, but that she can do it she is being pressganged into a secret branch of the police set up to deal with the supernatural. But that's only the start...

If you discovered that the world was not real, that everything you knew, everything you can see when you look out through a window, is little more than an illusion, how would you react? If your reality is not real, then what is reality? If you could see beyond reality to the place outside it, how would you know that was real and not another delusion? Where does the unreality stop?

For Nisa Harper, rookie supernatural detective and reality hacker, picking which delusion is the right one has just become a matter of life or death.

Reality Hack Details

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From Reader Review Reality Hack for online ebook

Sean Randall says

This reminded me of Peter Grant for female nymphomaniacs. Not really my thing, I find the cat thing disturbing, never mind anything else. The book's description doesn't mention what I would consider excessive sexual activity, which I have no problem with in fiction if it gets us anywhere, but I think I'd have preferred a work focusing on the hacking reality, more than the rampant sexual gratification of a witch cat.

Tony Hisgett says

I enjoyed this book more than I expected from the publicity blurb and reviews, a very interesting, if hard to describe, plot. Near the beginning of the book 'The Matrix' is alluded to, but actually some aspects of the story reminded me more of the 'Red Dwarf' 'Back to Reality' episode (s5e6). There are also some similarities to the Thaumatology series (which I really like) so I will look forward to a sequel if this should appear in the future.

Jay says

hmm, reminded me of Ra a bit

William Howe says

Question reality

I was not as happy with this book as some of his others. For all the talk of magic and hacking reality, there was very little actually done. The whole thing seemed a little under-cooked.

Cloak88 says

Mix the Matrix with MIB and you get this novel.

Reality Hack is an interesting novel. Right from the premise things are a bit weird. Reality is a simulation and a Men in Black like organisation (of which the main character becomes a part) are tasked to keep that fact on the down low. And all of this to prevent someone on the outside from pressing a "reset button" and wiping the slate clean... Or is that just an illusion.

The novel plays with your perception of what is real, and does so quite competently. In short an interesting novel only hampered with a few rough edges here and there.

Paige Ellen Stone says

Somehow, Niall Teasdale has managed to blow my mind out again.... Reality Hack is a very challenging book if one reads it with the philosophical and psychological and shamanic education and experience I have. Or, it can be just read as another example of Niall Teasdale's prolific imagination. The question of what reality is has dogged philosophers and psychologists and now even quantum physicists for ages. We all know what it means to become disillusioned. An example might be someone who deeply admired Lance Armstrong and believed him when he denied "juicing" to improve/enhance his performances in the Tour de France. When he finally admitted it, many people felt let down. They had discovered the the Lance in which they believe and whom they perceived did not exist. That Lance was an illusion. Those fans becomes disillusioned.

Teasdale raises, in this book, the question of what if you believed magic was impossible, only to learn that not only was it real, but you were powerfully gifted in using it?

Such is the case for Nisa Harper, our main character in this book, the first in a series. Nisa realizes that all of what appears to us is illusion or delusion. She learns that she can choose whichever reality/ illusion she desires. She becomes known for her skills a bit too quickly and by a certain succubus and is almost immediately snatched up by a special division of England's version of the FBI, much like Charles Stross has created in his "Laundry Files" series. There is a marvelous intertwining of ability at math and ability to "hack reality" that helps(?) us understand what doing magic or reality hacking is. It has to do with perceiving the illusions/realities of others and being able to replace that person's reality with the one the magician desires. Surprise, surprise, there are those with this ability who are using it to commit crimes! Nisa joins the organization that sought her out and begins to work as a "detective" in catching these criminals. The whole thing is rather complex, but if you have enjoyed NT's other works, you'll likely love this newest series. It is mind-blowing fun! Highest Recommendation.

Iori says

Wow, just wow. As usual Mister Teasdale created something interesting. Reality Hack reminded me of my favorite things : The secret World, The Matrix, Alice in Wonderland, Nightwatch. But the plot is deeper than all of them. As usual, the Author create characters that you would want to be friend with and some that you want to punch in the jaw...

Faline is my favorite in the book she's smart and sarcastic a real lady with class.

There is also the philosophical side of this book who struck a cord into me, is this the real world or are we in some deep sleep where we dream of all of we have, friends, family, lovers. Nah I won't say anymore but that's a book peeps should read give it a chance !

If Reality Hack is your first book written by mister Teasdale You will love his other works, hehehe.

Grazzit says

Mr. Teasdales books are normally very good. This one made stop reading and start thinking of the

philosophy then i had to bring the question to my friends to discuss it so i could refine my answer. That's the sign of a great book IMHO.

I really like Nisa, and the world that is created. The story is sorta in 2 (3?) parts. I enjoyed both, however Nisa's new job was my fav.

I know i didn't really do any justice in this review to the book, but without spoilers i just can't. read it and you will understand.

a good tip, at no point of the book, do you really know where it is going, you might think you do, but you won't.

Rainer Prem says

[Matrix,Simulacron 3 (hide spoiler)]

Isaac says

Niall Teasdale excels at writing rich, steamy, fun magically-flavored dramas. If they were candies, they might be Sour Patch Kids. This one is no exception.

Take one part Charles Strauss's *The Laundry*, one part White Wolf's *Mage: The Ascension*, and mix with the author's signature style. I read this book in two days, which I believe should be sufficient claim for its interest.

The premise is interesting, the storyline coherent, the research convincing. Most of the secondary characters don't have a much development — they're more than simple archetypes, but not by much. Now that much of the worldbuilding has been done, I have confidence that as the series progresses, we'll see more of the supporting roles and they'll get more development.

I highly recommend this for anyone who like urban fantasy, metafiction, or *Sylvie and Bruno*.

This review has been cross-posted to Smashwords.

Leo Laursen says

The beginning is ok, but a little slow. The last part really saves the day.

Moll James says

I am on the fence on liking this book -- I will probably read the sequel (if and when), but would be just as happy with a different series. This book has a number of similarities with the Thaumatology universe, but lacks the solidity of the latter. The conception of reality as an advanced computer simulation is not new, but leaves me a bit cold. If reality is a simulation, then anything is possible, and everything becomes a plot device. Add to this the uncertainty of which continuity is real (a sort of Chuang Tzu butterfly conundrum) and mysterious dreams and it felt like magical developments were purely arbitrary, not to mention unclear.

On the positive side, the main character, Nisa, is appealing, and several secondary characters are quite nice as well.
