



# The Mockingbird Drive

*A.C. Fuller*

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Alternate cover edition for B06XZD3DYX

## How do you expose a conspiracy that's hiding in plain sight?

Alex Vane was once a top investigative journalist. Now he peddles celebrity gossip and clickbait listicles, watching from a distance as his wife moves on with her life - without him. But Alex's past catches up to him when he learns that an old source, James Stacy, has been killed in a random mass shooting.

James left Alex one last scoop: a 50-year-old hard drive that may contain a secret worth killing for...and the name of the one person who can help him access the data. That person is Quinn Rivers, a paranoid and reclusive computer expert who believes the CIA is tracking her every move. And she may be right.

When Alex shows up at her door with the hard drive, armed operatives are right behind him. Now Alex and Quinn are on the run. There is no one to trust, nowhere to hide, and nothing but the hard drive to prove that James Stacy's death wasn't random at all.

## The Mockingbird Drive Details

Date : Published April 2017 by Amazon Digital Services

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Author : A.C. Fuller

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# From Reader Review The Mockingbird Drive for online ebook

## Tulay says

### Detailed and slow.

Do like this author, but this one at times was putting me to sleep. I you read the what this book was about, you'll know everything about the plot. Don't think I'll be reading more about Alex Vane and his personal and business troubles anymore.

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## Kay says

Ten days in and out of Las Vegas, Seattle, and the Nevada/Idaho-border Duck Valley Reservation make for quite a ride when you're a newshound and you've got an ancient hard disk to decipher, the CIA is after you, you've got a news site to run, and the wife you still love is looking at divorce. Yes, there's an ongoing love story woven into the thrills and chills of data and truth hunts, and I liked seeing the man-in-love's point of view.

But the chilling story at the heart of the book, so in tune with our times in mid-2017, is what grabbed me and kept me turning pages. What's it like to be on the No Fly List? What's it like to try to outrun the CIA?

What's it like to be a journalist who only wants to tell the truth? What's it like to be waterboarded? As a journalist, how do you deal with the hard war between media truth feeds and public frisson hunger?

Fuller's choice of names is one of the most exotic I've run into. Just the cast of characters promises, and delivers, edgy things. I got to meet the word "grafs" for the first time. And Overclocker.

My inner geek gal loved that the two computer wizards were women, with smart mouths to boot. And my justice streak loved seeing old political and greed-fueled chickens come home to roost via journalists who won't give up on getting the true story. Even when that's hard. Best book of the series yet—top-notch read! On my personal list: Best of 2017.

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## Chet Sandberg says

### AC Fuller writes novels you don't want to put down!

AC Fuller just keeps getting better! This is the third full novel in his Alex Vane thrillers. You don't have to have read the other two to understand the events of this latest, though (although there are a few references that long-time fans will appreciate). This is by far his strongest novel and his attention to detail and understanding of modern media including social media make this novel feel like it could be a tale happening in real time.

Alex Vane isn't the typical flat character that you sometimes read in modern thrillers - there's a real thinking, breathing character with all his doubts and foibles on full display. He ain't superman or even a super-ladies-man by the time we meet him here. The character shows real growth, which is fun to read and easy to relate to.

Buy the book - you won't regret it!

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## Nicola Stainton says

"Our anniversary was three days away, and it felt more important than the slow-motion chase scene I was in the middle of."

That about sums it up. Alex Vane is pulled into a huge conspiracy and he just isn't that bothered (until #spoileralert). He can't resist surreptitiously turning his phone on to check what his estranged wife is doing on social media, despite the risk of his phone being used to locate him and his fellow fugitive Quinn Rivers. And yet you can't quite blame him, because the book is pretty much a slow-motion chase scene. That said, it's still entertaining and contains enough nuggets of intrigue to send you off down a Wikipedia rabbit hole reading about conspiracy theories.

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## Mark Thomey says

Just finished the Mockingbird Drive. Let me first say I am a fan of the author and his character Alex Vane. That's not to say I always like Vane but the stories built around him are entertaining, realistic, and plausible. Vane has aged a bit and become a mogul with an internet news site. He is struggling with the separation from his wife. And he is struggling with his departure from the hardcore journalism he practiced in his early years with his move into the internet technology version of "yellow journalism" he now practices via his highly successful website. He is called to Vegas to meet a former associate only to find he has been murdered in a mass shooting. While there, he comes into possession of a secret hard drive from the '60s and ends up on a road trip with a paranoid and delusional anti-government individual – both of whom want to find out what is on the drive. The story involves shadowy "government agents" and internet/technology intrigue. The topics, subjects, technology and issues are timely. Fuller has done his research which makes the story all that more realistic and even plausible where nothing seems to be secret in a world with a 24 hour news cycle and the ever present specter of "social media".

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## Bonnie Dale Keck says

Kindle Unlimited Notice Media Thriller...finally a subgenre understand the reason for. See binge reading in my future. This one pretty sure free day or perma free, the 1 probably same, 2 ARC 3 ARC. Yes the here's a free book, we really hope you like it, but at least review it please.

Series List: An Alex Vane Media Thriller

The Cutline Book 0 {0.5} - The Anonymous Source 1 - The Inverted Pyramid 2 - The Mockingbird Drive 3

The start, definitely not the finish. {0.5}, 1 Just like all good series, goes deeper and more involved. Post 911 the reporter wants to break in to TV news, and just might with the scoop of a lifetime, which his editor buries, his source turns up dead, and there is a media conspiracy that could cost him his life. Is help from a professor, an internet genius, a billionaire's sex widow, and a washed up sports reporter, enough to survive discovering a \$500-million secret that could derail the largest media merger in history? What does it all have to do with 9-11? 2 has Alex living stably with a massage therapist and co-managing a website investigating the media, but once again a breaking story that was supposed to be about low level political

Washington corruption leads to probably vaster conspiracy, one that could lead to and affect the upcoming 2004 presidential election. His business partner disappears, the only clue being the name of the hacker but the same one that was murdered in New York City. Everything could be connected, but to find out they have to untangle a web, which includes the death of his parents seven years earlier as well as figure out who is pulling the strings of the investigation and the election.

3 proves that Data never dies, just people, as the former top investigative reporter is now peddling celebrity gossip and clickbait articles while his wife and life moves on without him. When an old source is killed in a random mass shooting he finds he left Alex one last scoop, involving a 50 year old hard drive that could contain a secret worth killing for, and the name of the person who can help Alex access the data. How does he get a paranoid reclusive computer expert who believes the CIA is tracking her every move to help him, and how do they escape armed men that are hot on their trail.

This trilogy has 4; there is a 0/prequel.

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### **Carole says**

A.C. Fuller writes really good thrillers! This is the 3rd in a row I've read, and I enjoyed it immensely. One of his main areas of focus is on the back door collaborations among American journalism and American security companies and the federal government agencies like the FBI and the CIA and the military and diplomatic corps. These books breed suspicion that the many conspiracies he writes about are at least partially true now and will be more likely to be true as time passes. Another focus is on the great characters he draws and their relationships with themselves and each other. The books are intriguing, genuinely scary, and pleasurable reading.

I'm taking a time away from Alex Vane and his love Greta and the many people who populate these books. I have no doubt I'll be coming back, though, after an interlude of reading other books.

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### **Norma says**

"...just another angry white guy in his mid forties..."

Another excellent Alex Vane adventure where the tired journalist again gets into investigative mode following the death of his once partner, James. He was killed in a shooting incident at the offices he had visited to get the information from an old obsolete computer drive. For this reader, James's death was a sad shock: he had been a prominent character in a previous book and his early, violent death showed the author's ruthlessness towards his protagonists. No one is safe.

Great story, very well written. It is not necessary to have read the other books in the series but I urge you to do so: they are all so good.

Highly recommended

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### **Donna says**

Alex Vane was brought up to date for this book (previously they were set in the early 2000s, which was quite

funny, as you kept getting comments like 'I wish they'd put a camera on these phones, it'd be so convenient!'), and it was quite a revelation for his character; gone was 'serious' journalist Alex, and instead he's managing an empire of clickbait news and bloggers!

Anyway, this story starts with the murder of James (who I loved in the previous books), which made me really sad and not sure I wanted to continue, but I'm glad I did - from going down to meet Innerva (James's partner) to find out what happened, Alex is thrown into a cross-country chase with mysterious Agents, whilst in the company of Quinn, a computer expert with mental health issues. I won't tell you more than that - spoilers! - but the writing was excellent, with lots of fast-paced sections that had slightly slower sections between them to allow you to recatch your breath! And the characters were brilliantly written, jumping to life in the imagination. Overall, a thrilling read, and highly recommended for readers who love spy thrillers, action and adventure books, and those by AC Fuller.

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## **Terri853 says**

It's hard to explain this book without giving everything away. Alex Vane is the owner and CEO of The Barker, an online news outlet that runs any story that will make them money. (For example, his wife leaves him after he runs photos of a young singer out clubbing in a short skirt with no panties as she's getting out of a car.)

At one point in his career, he'd been partners with a techo-nerd, James. James' girlfriend and partner contacts Alex and asks him to meet James in Las Vegas about an important story. Unfortunately, James is killed before Alex can meet with him. James' girlfriend, Innerva, shows up at Alex's hotel and give him an almost-50-year-old hard drive, saying that whatever's on it is why James was killed. She plans to disappear and suggests that Alex take the hard drive to a woman just outside of Vegas, Quinn Rivers.

Quinn is a bit crazy and very paranoid. She convinces Alex to flee with her, as she's sure the CIA is after them both. This is where the story gets complicated. Suffice it to say, there's a lot of government conspiracy theories, lots of running, lots of uncovering inconvenient truths. It was hard to stick with at times, but the way the author ties everything together at the end was worth it.

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## **Vicki says**

Once again I got to enjoy Alex Vane and his over the top personality. Only this time he was a little broken, a little confused and a whole lot personable. This story was gripping. It kept me on the edge of my seat anticipating what in the world could happen next.

This book was written so well and so descriptively by A.C. Fuller, I just can't get enough of his books. I stumbled upon him during Mystery Thriller Week and what a discovery he was. His books are dynamic, so well formed that you are living vicariously through Alex. It feels like real-time when reading and I forgot to take a breath on occasion. It is truly that gripping.

This story had a really modern and current climate storyline. It was exciting and riveting.

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## **Walter Scott says**

Move over Big Brother. A newer, bigger, and badder Big Brother has taken over.

For Alex Vane, it is several years beyond the time when *The Inverted Pyramid* took place. Alex is “living the good life”, luxuriating in expensive hotel suites, dining in exclusive restaurants, and spreading out a bit at the waistline.

A forty-year-old hard drive (that was supposed to have been destroyed by the CIA) turns up, a meeting in a newspaper office ends in a bloodbath, paranoia abounds, and Alex Vane’s life expectancy drops to minutes, instead of years.

A. C. Fuller has pulled off another nerve-wracking thriller, presents some fascinating journalism history, and ponders the evolution of journalism morality, as well as how news dissemination is morphing as technology advances.

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## **Jay Williams says**

What a great book. The thrills keep coming as Alex is called to Vegas and ends up with an antique disk pack from the early days of IBM. While he doesn't know what it contains, the bodies keep piling up as someone seems desperate to recover or destroy the information it contains. The characters range from weird to wonderful, and the story is filled with true suspense. The reader also sees a side of Vegas that is different. Alex is distracted by his need to recover his relationship with his wife while trying to escape alive with the information from the disk. The style of writing is perfect for the story, and the reader does not need to have read any other Alex Vane books to truly appreciate this one. The book is exciting, off-beat, and very entertaining.

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## **Satrajit Sanyal says**

Ten days in and out of Las Vegas, Seattle, and the Nevada/Idaho-border Duck Valley Reservation make for quite a ride when you’re a newshound and you’ve got an ancient hard disk to decipher, the CIA is after you, you’ve got a news site to run, and the wife you still love is looking at divorce. Yes, there’s an ongoing love story woven into the thrills and chills of data and truth hunts, and I liked seeing the man-in-love’s point of view.

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Fuller’s choice of names is one of the most exotic I’ve run into. Just the cast of characters promises, and delivers, edgy things. Plus, I got to meet the word “grafs” for the first time. And Overclocker. But I’m still looking for what “He had ghosted me” means.

My inner geek gal loved that the two computer wizards were women, with smart mouths to boot. And my justice streak loved seeing old political and greed-fueled chickens come home to roost via journalists who

won't give up on getting the true story. Even when that's hard. Best book of the series yet—top-notch read! On my personal list: Best of 2017.

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## **Ronald Keeler says**

The Mockingbird Drive by A.C. Fuller can be a fast-paced novel of intrigue for fans of computer science forensics. There is a mystery that must be solved by an unusual system of reverse engineering. A central object in the first few pages is a hard drive, one of the earliest “ever.” While James Stacy does not know what is on it, he is sure that if he can decode this early technology device, he will find the knowledge of a huge conspiracy that will change the world. James does not have the necessary knowledge to do this; he travels to a small-town newspaper where he knows of a person who can explore corners of the Dark Web and reconstruct information from the drive. Fuller kills off James in the first few pages in a supposed random killing by a mentally ill attacker, hence no spoiler, and the scene shifts to Alex, the chief hero in a series of novels. This is Book Two, but Fuller assures us this is a stand-alone novel.

Alex is a flawed hero both professionally and personally. In love with Greta, his wife of twelve years, she had kicked him out eight months prior in a separation that will or will not lead to a divorce. For a reason that is difficult to define, it seems she has grown as a person and observed that Alex was stuck somewhere to the point that he was boring without hope of recovery. During this adventure to save the ethical world, Alex will self-evaluate his sense of social morals and ethics with an objective to make a positive change that will save his marriage while also rescuing civilization. Professionally, Alex is one-half of a high-tech website company that specializes in creating fame for its own sake. Even Alex admits that some of his company's published works fit the category of sleaze. Alex contributes conceptual and marketing strategy to the firm. He is amazingly ignorant of basic computer skills and relies on his partner for all the techie gee-whiz type stuff.

Prior to the death of James, Alex had received a message from James offering some sort of game-changing story about a conspiracy in high places. Alex sets off for a meeting with James without knowledge of his friend's death and, once knowledgeable, is left with little alternative than to meet Innerva, James's partner. Luckily, she has a second hard drive to replace the one that had been during the supposed random attack on the newspaper where James had been trying to enlist computer expertise. Still, she is also not a computer expert but gratefully accepts help from Alex in finding knowledgeable people to exploit ancient technology. Innerva sends him to Quinn, an overclocker.

And this is where the novel gets slow for the general reader. From 16% to 80% the novel is about the relationship between dark web guru Quinn and Alex (she doesn't respect Alex), Alex's relationship with ex-wife Greta (she doesn't respect him) and a further Indian guru who has managed to squirrel away hardware that might be useful in exploiting the mystery hard drive. Tudayapi, the Indian doesn't really respect, like, or trust anyone. Maybe all these characters will eventually come together. There are chase scenes and mysterious identities but there is little excitement until the 80% point. Then the novel takes off again and is exciting until the end. I am happy I lasted to the 80% point because the final 20% is quite creative in its examination of the capabilities of social media to get things done.

Because of that lengthy, unexciting middle part, I gave this novel four Amazon stars. It is available through Kindle Unlimited as a free read. I will read more novels by A. C. Fuller but will probably go back to his political thriller series which include Open Primary, a novel I liked a lot.



