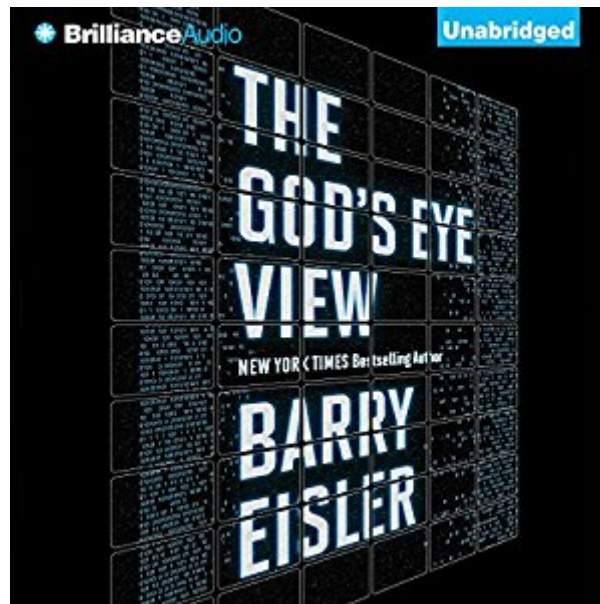


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The God's Eye View



Synopsis

NSA director Theodore Anders has a simple goal: collect every phone call, email, and keystroke tapped on the Internet. He knows unlimited surveillance is the only way to keep America safe. Evelyn Gallagher doesn't care much about any of that. She just wants to keep her head down and manage the NSA's camera network and facial recognition program so she can afford private school for her deaf son, Dash. But when Evelyn discovers the existence of a program code-named God's Eye and connects it with the mysterious deaths of a string of journalists and whistle-blowers, her doubts put her and Dash in the crosshairs of a pair of government assassins: Delgado, a sadistic bomb maker and hacker, and Manus, a damaged giant of a man who until now has cared for nothing beyond protecting the director. Within an elaborate game of political blackmail, terrorist provocations, and White House scheming, a global war is being fought - a war between those desperate to keep the state's darkest secrets and those intent on revealing them. A war that Evelyn will need all her espionage training and savvy to survive, because the director has the ultimate advantage: The God's Eye View.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Excellent read, even better if you have some knowledge of the intel world. NSA director with a loyal but wary and suspicious Executive Officer who has unleashed a highly invasive surveillance system works feverishly to stop a senior officer from outing the program via a journalist. Director uses a loyal and brutally efficient "silencer" to help him stifle the leak. Silencer comes to recognize

admirable qualities of his "target" and in the end successfully emerges with the target from chaos following the takedown of the Director.

In a wonderful piece of writing, Barry Eisler spins a suspenseful tale of intrigue and drama. The author of the great John Rain series has done it again. Can't put it down. The story employs an artful combination of technology and human nature. In a departure from his prior work, Eisler here takes a dip into social consciousness in the fashion of John le Carré's *The Constant Gardener*. (A critique of certain alleged shenanigans of "Big Pharma" in Africa.) In an update of George Orwell's *1984* in 2016, Eisler describes how modern technology lets the government, especially NSA, spy on individuals, monitor virtually all of their actions, predict their movements and even read their thoughts. The ubiquitous collection of data on human activity, the integration, conflation and analysis of these data give the government great power and control. It's all top secret, compartmented, codeword. Combine this with individuals in powerful positions for whom the ends justify the means, with personal motivation, a bit of God complex and you have a pretty frightening scenario. Plausible, possible and scary, and Eisler has references (like 30 pages of them). But I still miss Rain-san.

I greatly enjoy Barry Eisler's John Rain series of books and was disappointed that he had chosen to write something not in that series. However, this book does not disappoint. It is fascinating and scary all at once. The crimes are too numerous to mention. The only truly innocent character is a 12 year old deaf child. All the characters are criminals in one way or another. Interspersed with the story is a wealth of information about the "spy state" that exists and grows in the US and worldwide. Barry deftly shows to what evil means such technology and information can be used as well as the necessity for having it in some form. He doesn't come up with any answers to how the technology and information can and should be used. Rather, he points out that knowledge of the intrusions into privacy is paramount and mentions several options for giving us some privacy. Don't miss his list of references. His research always seems meticulous, and it is no less so in this book. Though I still look forward to more John Rain in the future, this is a book well worth the time to read.

Is the state surveillance evil? I, for one, want the state to protect me at all costs and prepare to give up my privacy unlike a lot of people today but....it's frightening to learn the extent some officials might go to in order to keep such surveillance secret. *God's Eye* is the book about the super secret surveillance program of the same name which is run basically illegally by the intelligence agency

and about people who are killed by that agency once those people learn about God's Eye. God's Eye is a powerful book full of strong characters like Marvin Manus, the deaf intelligence operator with tragic childhood, ruined life and blind loyalty to his superior officer who was the only person even shown any kindness to Marvin and whose betrayal comes as a devastating blow to Marvin in the end, the journalist Ryan Hamilton discovering the truth about the program, going through torture and nearly dying and the others equally remarkable people. God's Eye of Barry Eisler is one of those books which is difficult to forget and which stays with you long after the book is finished.

This was a very exciting book to read. The story line is "current" and relevant with what is happening now with the security of the United States in dealing with terrorism and anyone perceived as threatening the government. The described cyber tools available to the government and those described as under development raised the hair on my arms and back of my neck. What gives the story line a chilling realization is that the "enemy" can be anyone. Anyone who doesn't agree, anyone who might know something or anyone who gets in the way of secret operation programs. Well written, exciting to read, and all believable.

I love Barry Eisler's characters and action scenes. This novel doesn't disappoint. I read it in one long session. Perhaps the most salient fact that I would want to share about this book is that according to the author's footnotes, it couldn't have been written before the NSA programs which were exposed by the Snowden leaks. I would recommend this to anyone who wants to have an understanding of how the privacy of American citizens is under attack by our government bureaucracy.

He elevates the conspiracy genre's stereotypical characters to an art form. Each of the main actors is deeply flawed in their own way, but they either overcome those flaws in their struggle for redemption-- or succumb to them and spiral down. He even exploits the hearing disability of two characters as a unique plot device. While you're empathizing with the protagonist, you're also enjoying the personal details as a master writer puts the people through their paces. Once again Mr. Eisler includes actual world events and facts in his story. The characters make some unbelievable comments, but unfortunately they're all backed up by real-life journalists and other records. You know how the story will end, but you're not sure how it will get there-- or how badly everyone is going to get hurt along the way. I enjoyed the slightly ambiguous conclusion. We don't know exactly what happens to everyone, but a sequel (or fan fiction) should sort it out.

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