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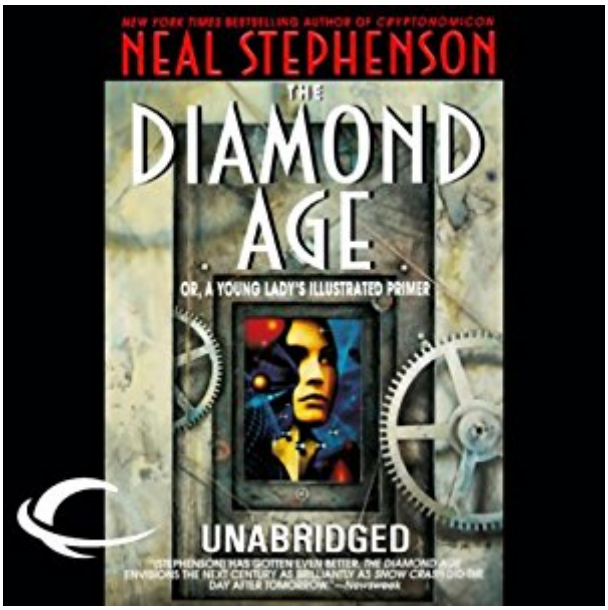
The Diamond Age



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Synopsis

Decades into our future, a brilliant nanotechnologist named John Percival Hackworth has just broken the rigorous moral code of his tribe, the powerful Neo-Victorians. He’s made an illicit copy of a state-of-the-art interactive device called a young lady’s illustrated primer, designed to raise a girl capable of thinking for herself. Unfortunately, for Hackworth, he loses his smuggled copy to a gang of street urchins in a mugging. One of the young thugs presents the primer to his little sister, Nell and suddenly her life - and perhaps the whole future of humanity - is about to be decoded and reprogrammed...vividly imagined, stunningly prophetic, and epic in scope, "The Diamond Age" is a major novel from one of the most visionary writers of our time. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Bronze Age, Iron Age, Diamond Age... Say what? Yes: the Diamond Age, the age of nanotechnology, where windows made from perfect, crystalline carbon are cheaper than those of glass. That’s what this book is about: the tech and the social implications thereof. As we’ve come to expect from Stephenson, the tech in this book, no matter how advanced and extravagant, is well thought out and coherent. The writing is crisp, lucid, and, at times, beautiful. Rarely, if ever, do we encounter an awkward choice of words or a badly turned phrase. I pretty much enjoyed the book from the first word to the last.I have two quibbles:1. The story arc, its length and complexity, led me to expect a bigger and more explosive climax. The end seemed slightly abrupt to me.2. Some

character development seemed weakly linked to character importance in the story. Some characters, whose contribution to the story seemed secondary, got quite a bit of space. Other characters, who played a role in the story's climax and resolution, were introduced later and more casually.Those critiques aside, this is an excellent book. I enjoyed it and would recommend it to my friends.

I thoroughly enjoyed the first 70% or so of this book. The conceit of an AI primer that teaches and adapts to a child was clever, but some of the world building elements were inconsistently carried out through the book. We start by learning about body modifications and nanotechnology--creating an interesting, post-modern world--but by the end these aspects of society are essentially hand-waived away and rarely mentioned, with the focus on old-fashioned books and guns. Character development was similarly inconsistent, with many chapters spent on unimportant characters and few spent on several ones that were important in the last third of the book. I like Stephenson's writing, but this book needed a better editor to comment on the structure. That said, definitely worth reading, especially if you're a Stephenson fan!

Neal Stephenson writes science fiction that requires a certain level of attention and concentration to follow and stay on top of. You canÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t lay a Stephenson novel down for a few days and hope to come back and take up where you left off. This is not pulp science fiction.As in much of his other work, Stephenson, in The Diamond Age, crafts a complicated economic and cultural landscape with a heavy mixture of technological and dystopian overlay. Set largely in heavily populated and ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“triballyÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• stratified future Southeast Asia, the heroine of the story, Nell, an economically deprived young lady, comes into possession of a ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“magicalÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• book which creates a host of new opportunities for her. Over time, her life in the magical world of the book begins to merge with that of the real world, leading to a fascinating climax.Numerous ancillary story threads present fascinating characters and intriguing scenarios. Simply put, Stephenson is a highly intelligent, brilliant story teller whose science fiction is among the best IÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ve ever read. This novel is certainly no exception.

I am a big Neal Stephenson fan--his work is always intriguing. Dense, very well written, occasionally laugh out loud funny, full of fascinating science and often historical perspective that is unique. This, for me, is not the Stephenson's best novel. That said, even at less-than-stellar, he is a remarkable

writer. Conceptually, the work is strong--sequestered societies, abused children, an atmosphere full of nanotechnology unfiltered at the lower rungs of society--and Stephenson makes it believable. My main issue with the book is the sense that it is being rushed at the end and that some of the means of getting to the resolution seem to be gratuitous. A couple of characters abandoned only to pop up later in odd ways. After building this world methodically (as he often does) he seems a bit too eager to leave. Still a page-turner, but not up to the level of the Baroque Trilogy, Cryptonomicon, or Snow Crash.

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