



Hardwired, Episode 1

By Walter Jon Williams

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Episode One of the classic novel! Earth lies prostrate beneath the lash of the Orbital powers, and Earth's Balkanized nations have no choice but to let the Orbitals plunder their remaining wealth. Below the zone of Orbital control, buttonheads, panzerjocks, dirtgirls, and hustlers scramble for their ticket out of the gravity well.

But now, if the criminal underworld and the guerilla underground can join forces, there is a chance to shift the balance of power— in a war fought on the ground by hardwired commandos, in the air by high-flying deltajocks, and by genius hackers in the neural interface.

As Roger Zelazny said, “Hardwired” is a tough, sleek juggernaut of a story, punctuated by strobe light movements, coursing to the wail of jets and the twang of steel guitars— glittering, nasty, and noble— and told in a style perfectly suiting its content. It has all of my favorite things— blood, love, fire, hate and a high ideal or two. I wish I'd written this one.”

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

After his thoughtful, elegant novel *Knight Moves*, Williams wrenchingly shifts gears for this heavy-metal adventure. It is set with acknowledgement in Roger Zelazny's *Damnation Alley*, when corporate Orbitals control what's left of a postwar America, now balkanized and armed to the teeth. Ex-fighter pilot Cowboy, "hardwired" via skull sockets directly to his lethal electronic hardware, teams up with Sarah, an equally cyborized gun-for-hire, to make a last stab at independence from the rapacious Orbitals. The story, though, is buried under an elaborate techno-punk style of the sort William Gibson popularized in *Neuromancer*. In both cases, it is a pose, a baroque nostalgia for Hemingway and film noir; it only plays at nihilism, terror and despair. The best effect is Williams's future version of a brain-scrambled vet: a dead buddy of Cowboy's whose scattered bits and pieces of computer memory now constitute a ragged semblance of a man. Such nuggets are hard to find amid the amplified, rock-'n-roll prose.

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Review

"*Hardwired* is a tough, sleek juggernaut of a story, punctuated by strobe-light movements, coursing to the wail of jets and the twang of steel guitars--glittering, nasty, and noble--and told in a style perfectly suiting its content. It has all my favorite things--blood, love, fire, hate, and a high ideal or two. I wish I'd written this one." --Roger Zelazny, Hugo, Locus, and Nebula award-winning author

"Williams' use of language is as explosive and as techno tinged as the world he describes. Reading the book is like taking a jet ride across a futuristic America, with acceleration forcing you back in your seat all the way." --Tom Von Malder, writer and arts critic

"Heavy-metal adventure." --*Publishers Weekly*

About the Author

WALTER JON WILLIAMS has been nominated repeatedly for every major science fiction award, including Hugo and Nebula award nominations for his novel *City on Fire*. His most recent books are *The Sundering*, *The Praxis*, *Destiny's Way*, and *The Rift*. He lives near Albuquerque, New Mexico, with his wife.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Frederick Avelar:

In this 21st millennium, people become competitive in every single way. By being competitive today, people have to do something to make themselves survive, being in the middle of often the crowded place and notice by simply surrounding. One thing that sometimes many people have underestimated it for a while is reading. Yeah, by reading a reserve your ability to survive increase then having chance to remain than other is high. To suit your needs who want to start reading the book, we give you this kind of *Hardwired, Episode 1* book as beginning and daily reading publication. Why, because this book is usually more than just a book.

Paul Williams:

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Patsy Phan:

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Robert Russell:

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