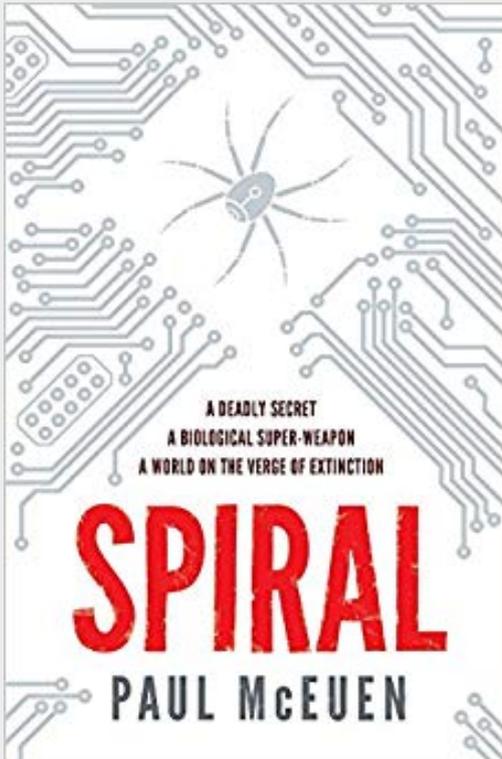


Spiral



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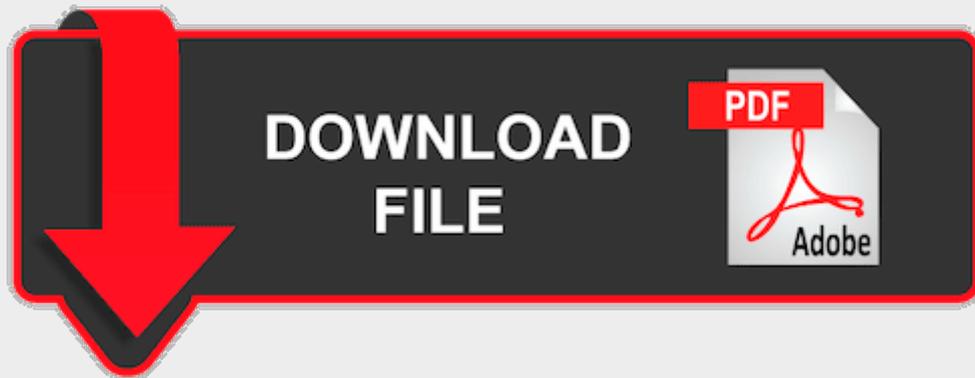
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Reviews of the [Spiral](#)

1. Murn

I had Spiral recommended while I was expressing my disappointment in Michael Crichton's posthumous book Micro. It was suggested that in the realm of nanotechnology this is the book that Crichton would have wished he'd written.

This novel starts aboard a Navy ship in the Pacific following WWII and sets the tone by dropping the 4th Atomic Bomb on another vessel found floundering at sea with most of the crew dead or going insane. The young

hero, Liam Connor, discovers that the Japanese have discovered a biological weapon based on a fungal pathogen for which there seems to be no cure.

We next meet 80-plus Liam Connor at Cornell University where he is a professor emeritus specializing in Nanotechnology based machines that use fungus for their fuel supply. He is suspected of having kept a secret vial of the pathogen from the WWII encounter and is tortured and his family is threatened unless he parts with his long held prize. Liam escapes and commits suicide in order to hold fast the secret that could threaten the entire world if it were to fall into the wrong hands.

Enter an interesting cast of characters to uncover the mystery. His granddaughter Maggie, his University colleague Jake and his precocious great-grandson Dylan are all well written and believable in their rolls in this techno thriller.

I found the story fascinating, the writing quite good and the setting helped the overall volume become theater of the mind. I understand that this is Paul McEuen's first published novel. The fact that I can say it's better than Michael Crichton's last novel should encourage him to write more. Please Paul - we went more!

2. Blackworm

I am rarely tempted to try a first book by any author that isn't established and hasn't already won my heart, but the good reviews and the words "thriller", "biological" and "nanotechnology" convinced me I should give it a shot. I LOVED this book and I want more like it - NOW.

I hate it when a reviewer (or the book advertisers) make statements like "another Michael Crichton" or "Crichton readers will love this", etc., so forgive me for what I'm about to say: this guy has some important qualities I loved about Crichton; he teaches me things I didn't know, educates me without being dry or boring, but am totally enjoying and absorbing every bit. I think McEuen does it better even -- I'm really thinking of seeing if I can audit college classes on these subjects, it was so interesting. Plus, finally someone explained some concepts about gene engineering in a way I could understand (these things have been coming up in thrillers I've read for the last 20 years and I've always felt like I walked into the middle of a conversation).

I read *Micro* a couple of months after *Spiral*, and I agree with another reviewer -- *Micro* pales compared to *Spiral*. That said, *Micro* was pretty good, 3 1/2 stars at least, and Richard Preston was the perfect choice to finish the book.

I truly hope Paul McEuen will be writing more thrillers and I will know about it when the next one comes out -- he is on my list now.

3. Windforge

This thriller has everything: non-stop action, romance, political espionage, biological weapons, nanotechnology, pulsing glow-in-the-dark fungi, and the imminent threat of a world pandemic. It will appeal to men, women, soldiers, pacifists, jocks, nerds, and anyone leery of taking too many antibiotics.

The complex plot begins during World War II as young soldier Liam Conner saves America from Japanese biological weapons. The next time we see him, he is a seventy-five year old physics professor emeritus at Cornell, doting on his great-grandson, Dylan, and plotting romance and more between his younger coworker Jake and his granddaughter Maggie.

From there, the action doesn't stop. Reeling from a personal tragedy, Jake, Maggie, and Dylan prove satisfyingly feisty and resourceful in defending themselves and their world from danger. But an evil genius has planned their demise with great precision and is bent on destroying America to ensure Asian world dominance.

As soon as I read the last page, I checked imdb.com (Internet Movie Database) to confirm my suspicions. Yes! This novel has been optioned for a movie. Amazingly, this is the first novel by the author. Not surprisingly, he is a physics professor at Cornell University.

4. fetish

At first I thought this would be a typical fiction novel.

After reading it I can now consider it one of the better science/sci-fi stories I've read in a long time, better than other nano thingy novels.

I have been reading science fiction since the 5th grade, and now I'm 71 and still reading it, so I know good work.

I read an article about him in Discover magazine, and it mentioned the book. Then downloaded it to my Kindle. I could hardly put it down.

I'm giving him 5 stars because I was so impressed by it.

He should write another.

I'm a retired electrical engineer and computer programmer and consider his current work to be truly inspirational. It's surely going to be important for humanity's future.

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