

HOMELAND

by Cory Doctorow

Published in 2013

Rating (0 stars is the absolute worst, 10 stars is the BEST BOOK EVER)



Genre(s):



Contemporary



Action/adventure



Science Fiction



Fantasy



Romance



Horror



Mystery



Nonfiction



Historical fiction



Other: _____

Homeland, by Cory Doctorow, is the sequel to the popular YA novel Little Brother. In Little Brother, 17 year old Marcus Yallow and his three friends banded together after terrorists destroyed the Bay Bridge and killed 3,000 people to protest and combat the DHS's iron grip on San Francisco. Similarly, in Homeland, Marcus is thrust into a critical position in which his life and liberty depend on his every move when he receives a USB drive from his nemesis, Masha. This USB drive contains a cache of over 800,000 confidential files leaked from the Department of Homeland Security, which detail horrific human rights abuses and violations of the U.S. Constitution. Marcus is faced with a decision: release the documents and face the rather grim consequences, or remain silent and watch helplessly as all his unalienable rights are silently eroded.

If you enjoy computers and hacking (ethical or otherwise) this is the book for you. However, if you prefer stories that don't have much commentary and cut right to the chase, this might not be the book for you. Give it a try anyway though. It was a great sequel to Little Brother, that packed an intriguing and captivating plot with interesting details about tech, computers, and hacking as well as commentary about government and individual rights. As with Little Brother, there were many interesting tangents ranging in topic from linux to cold brew coffee. Nevertheless, it does help to not be a complete computer noob, or else Marcus's long tangents about encryption and the TOR browser might get confusing. One issue I had with the book was the ending. It left a lot of questions unanswered. Still, it's a fun and captivating story that I enjoyed and hopefully you will too.

By Matthew H, 8th grade