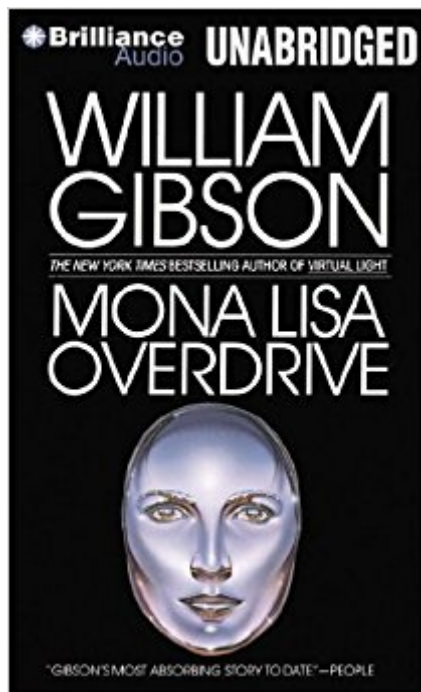


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Mona Lisa Overdrive



Synopsis

William Gibson, author of the extraordinary multiaward-winning novel *Neuromancer*, has written his most brilliant and thrilling work to date. Enter Gibson's unique world "lyric and mechanical, erotic and violent, sobering and exciting" where multinational corporations and high-tech outlaws vie for power, traveling into the computer-generated universe known as cyberspace. Into this world comes Mona, a young girl with a murky past and an uncertain future whose life is on a collision course with internationally famous Sense/Net star Angie Mitchell. Since childhood, Angie has been able to tap into cyberspace without a computer. Now from inside cyberspace, a kidnapping plot is masterminded by a phantom entity who has plans for Mona, Angie, and all humanity, plans that cannot be controlled or even known. And behind the intrigue lurks the shadowy Yakuza, the powerful Japanese underworld, whose leaders ruthlessly manipulate people and events to suit their own purposes or so they think.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Into the cyber-hip world of William Gibson comes Mona, a young girl with a murky past and an uncertain future whose life is on a collision course with internationally famous Sense/Net star Angie Mitchell. Since childhood, Angie has been able to tap into cyberspace without a computer. Now, from inside cyberspace, a kidnapping plot is masterminded by a phantom entity who has plans for Mona, Angie, and all humanity, plans that cannot be controlled...or even known. And behind the intrigue lurks the shadowy Yakuza, the powerful Japanese underworld, whose leaders ruthlessly

manipulate people and events to suit their own purposes. An over-the-top thrill ride sequel to Neuromancer and Count Zero. --This text refers to the Audible Audio Edition edition.

Gibson burst upon the scene in 1984 with Neuromancer, a revolutionary, innovative novel that not only gathered up just about every award in the SF field, but also virtually invented a new sub-genre, which has come to be called "cyberpunk." He followed it with Count Zero, set in the same neon-lit, over-urbanized, polluted, high-tech future; an even better novel, it was necessarily not as breathtakingly unfamiliar and inventive as the first. This new novel completes the series, following the lives of some of the characters from the previous books (Bobby Newmark, Count Zero himself, is here) as well as many new ones, particularly Angie Mitchell, star of simstims and idol of millions, who is intuitively sensitive to cyberspace and the vodun deities that are its manifestations. Told in a gorgeous, highly compressed almost poetic style that requires the reader's attention and intelligence, this very satisfying novel can stand on its own. Major ad/promo; author tour. Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Audible Audio Edition edition.

Inevitably I had to compare this to Neuromancer which deserved a re-read for me. In this work I feel like Gibson was trying so hard to say something that there was no opportunity for me to use my imagination to fill in the gaps. The development of the various characters was vivid, but in the end I wasn't sure why some were included. There were probably some great stories for each of them but in this work they didn't come together in a truly meaningful way at the conclusion.

I have to admit, I don't like "Mona Lisa Overdrive" as much as the first two books, but it does continue and wrap up themes and storylines of the trilogy. I feel like there is not really enough resolution to exactly *what* happened "When It Changed" - maybe part of Gibson's point is that it is not knowable, certainly not by a merely human mind, but it would be nice to have a bit more of a clue. Also, the novel feels a little less structured and focused than the earlier installments. Nevertheless, it is an amazing story, and enjoyable. Definitely worth reading . . .

William Gibson's "Mona Lisa Overdrive" is a decent ending to the Sprawl Trilogy he started with Neuromancer. Gibson makes a good attempt at keeping these books separate enough that a reader might be able to read them independently (there's a lot of in-book time between the events in each book, knowledge of returning characters isn't necessary to understand what's going on, and the summaries of previous events are detailed enough to let readers know where things are coming

from). But, though it's possible to read the books out of order, I wouldn't recommend it. You'd still miss a lot. In general, "Mona Lisa Overdrive" reads pretty much like the previous two books: a well-written, interesting story with well-done characters and worlds. Even though I rate this book at a Very Good 4 stars out of 5, I'd also say that it's not quite as good as the previous book (which was similarly not quite as good as the original). Probably the biggest issue is that this book's pacing is just a bit off. First, he's running four sets of intertwined plot lines here. So, it takes a while to get things together and rolling. Also, he throws in a bit more of the artsy prose that successful authors seem to want to write instead of meat-and-potatoes stories. For instance, he's got one chapter dedicated to extolling the virtues of the production techniques used in a documentary a character is watching. But, those are fairly minor issues. Overall, it's a very good continuation (and conclusion) of the series. The books in Gibson's Sprawl Trilogy are: 1. *Neuromancer* 2. *Count Zero* 3. *Mona Lisa Overdrive*

I have read and re-read parts and whole of the three Sprawl books (*Neuromancer*, *Count Zero* and *Mona Lisa Overdrive*) over the past couple of decades, gaining new insights and making new connections across the events in the world described by Gibson. The ebook version makes it much easier to make quick visits to this world during moments of downtime. Re-reading selectively, with the intent of mining more cyber-insight from these books, rather than rushing through them like the page-turners they were on first-time read, is very rewarding. Plus, the rich descriptions and atmosphere that Gibson evokes can be appreciated at length. The interconnection and evolution and continuity among events really holds together over the trilogy, and supports the grand vision started with *Neuromancer*. *Mona Lisa Overdrive* takes place after the wrenching cyberspace events of *Neuromancer* and the resulting turmoil in *Count Zero*. Basically, the combination of *Count Zero* and *Mona Lisa Overdrive* build on the cyberworld that was transformed at the end of *Neuromancer*. The wrap-up and finale of *Mona Lisa Overdrive* gives poignant and fitting closure to the events of the world that evolved after *Neuromancer*. I loved seeing the characters evolve over these two books.

Mona Lisa Overdrive is the third novel in Gibson's "Sprawl Trilogy". These novels and a few of his short stories are where the concepts of "cyberspace", and "the matrix" were first developed. Without giving too much away, the novel is essentially a detective story where several characters are trying to protect themselves from attacks emanating from AIs (artificial intelligence programs) that reside in the matrix. For folks that like this sort of thing, they will like this book VERY much. Classic science fiction, done twenty-five years ago now, but still very current and very fresh. Big fun.

William Gibson has turned into my favorite author. There is an edge to his stuff that I cannot find anywhere else. That edge has inspired my own writing and I feel helped me to become a better writer. I honestly don't think there is anyone else like him. Especially in this series. This is my favorite of the Sprawl Series. A future world that seems possible and impossible at the same time. The settings and the backdrop are more of a character sometimes than the characters themselves. It's just his choice of words and the organization of those well chosen words.

Not as good as Neuromancer. Difficult to follow in parts but still ahead of it's time. If you are in to a cyberpunk dystopian future run by megacorporations then this is book is a good read.

The Shakespeare of cyberpunk has created another unique and intriguing story with Mona Lisa overdrive. This book is a must read for those who are into the neuromancer trilogy.

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