

THE CONTRACTOR

MICHAEL
STEPHEN
FUCHS

A NOVELLA BY
THE AUTHOR OF
*THE MANUSCRIPT AND
PANDORA'S SISTERS*



Michael Stephen Fuchs

The Contractor (an action/thriller novella)



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Allison Blue is a top-notch (plus hot) Silicon Valley cryptographer - and she is a cryptographer even though she is being a spy, doing highly-paid contract function for a terrifyingly omniscient authorities agency. She only required the field operative teaching, and the high-capability Glock, to amuse herself - also to feel part of something harmful. But danger proves surprisingly unamusing when initial the Israelis, then your Chinese, and finally her very own agency, all start asking very insistently that she steal her company's groundbreaking quantum encryption technology for them - and her double-life quickly gets much more complex, plus much more double-life-threatening, than she ever bargained for. - Kirkus Reviews" Will the mad-doggie Chinese operatives with the dual double-barreled pistol grip shotguns disappear her in a hail of buckshot? Vu" The final result of this dizzying conflict will only be motivated in a balls-out, five-way firefight in the server room of a highly-secure office complex in the middle of Silicon Valley. And where Allison will go afterward, should she survive, is yet to be determined. Just what a technothriller should be: taut, violent, wise, and very, very complex. - Cory Doctorow" This 10,000-word novella combines all the best motifs of cyberthriller writer Michael Stephen Fuchs: over-the-top action, blitzingly new technologies, a conflicted motorcycle-riding female protagonist who is handy with both computers and guns, wildly complex action set-pieces - and, finally, a philosophical meditation on what the hell we're supposed to be doing with this lives down here, particularly when everything is decreasing around our ears. Fuchs appears to be powered by the narrative theory of 'when in question, devote a firefight. . - Crèjà. Guns, blackmail, computers, unfathomable corruption, angry adolescent Taoists, and a bloody quest for a mysterious manuscript. Also included in the short story collection, Don't Shoot Me In The Ass, And Other Stories Praise for Michael Stephen Fuchs" "Will the unflappable Mossad agent with the dreamy steel-blue eyes defend her when the shit comes down? Once the guns come out, it switches gear into a dream-like actioner where character types discuss favourite automated rifles, perform startling feats of derring-do, and bust caps in various asses. Definitely well worth a appear." - Dr. Ian Hocking, writer of Dé" Will her own government company ultimately lock her up in an area, and throw away the area? Some writers keep you thinking they know things we ordinary mortals don't possess usage of. Fuchs is stupendously talented." As if The Da Vinci Code had been written by a person who wasn't an idiot. me de la Crime



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