DARK CLOUD
KEN SANSOM

DESCRIPTION

Tate Anderson alternates between IT wizard and prison inmate in this fast-paced thriller about redemption, technology, and moral reckoning in an age when the line between human and machine intelligence is vanishing.

When a catastrophic cyberattack at AltoStratus, the world's leading cloud-computing company, cripples MegaZone's online shopping, the world believes it was a routine software glitch. Behind the scenes, AltoStratus knows better. Desperate for answers, they rehire Tate Anderson, the brilliant but disgraced cybersecurity expert they once cast aside.

Paired up with Kyra, his replacement and former boss's daughter, and armed with acerbic wit, a deep love for modern art, and a stubborn refusal to quit, Tate dives into an investigation that leads to a chilling discovery: When imbuing computers with the power to decide, adapt, and learn, human frailties also arise.

Nearly ten months later, after being charged with murder, Tate sits in a low-security prison, chronicling what happened over those three chaotic days in Seattle. The truth won't save him, but it needs to be written—before power, greed, and intelligent systems finish burying it.

What began as a hunt for state-sponsored malware unraveled into something far more sinister: the race to save the world.
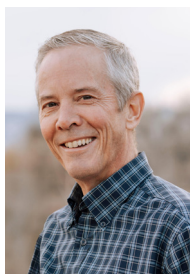
KEY SELLING POINTS

- U.S. and Chinese tech companies now spend hundreds of billions of dollars annually in the global race toward Artificial General Intelligence (AGI), with far less attention paid to its ethical consequences.
- Author's hands-on experience leading cloud and AI initiatives at Amazon Web Services and tech start-ups provides rare insider credibility.
- According to McKinsey (2024), organizations using AI in at least one business function rose to 78%, up from 55% the prior year, underscoring the technology's rapid mainstream adoption.
- While nearly everyone has heard of AI and cloud computing, few truly understand how they work or how deeply they shape our privacy, jobs, and national security.
- In 2023, there were 420 million cyberattacks worldwide (Forescout). Nearly 77% of major cyber-operations were state-sponsored (Council on Foreign Relations), while the U.S. House Committee on Homeland Security reported a 30% rise in attacks on critical infrastructure.

MARKETING

- *Dark Cloud* will be promoted on author's website and active social media platforms: Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, X, Goodreads.
- Reviews & endorsements will be collected through current relationships while networking with new influencers, genre blogs and niche media.
- Author will pitch *Dark Cloud* to local area radio, print media and podcasts for interviews and features.
- An email marketing campaign and newsletter will be sent using author's contact lists.
- Author will be running sponsored Amazon and social media ads through the launch.
- The author will participate in book tours, talks, book clubs, and book signings.
- For every copy of *Dark Cloud* sold, one dollar will be donated to U-GO, a global nonprofit that funds higher-education scholarships for talented young women in low-income countries.

AUTHOR BIO

Ken Sansom has nearly four decades of technology leadership, including a decade at Amazon Web Services as a senior AI executive. Born and raised in Oregon, he has lived in eight US states and eight countries and has traveled to more than forty others—experiences that shaped his global perspective and ignited a curiosity about how technology connects and divides us. He earned his undergraduate degree from Lewis & Clark College and master's degrees from UCLA Anderson and the National University of Singapore. His love of reading and writing was sparked by his mother's summer job as a librarian, while hot summer nights spent sleeping beneath open skies taught him to dream big.

AUDIENCE

- Tech professionals, executives, and consultants who appreciate technical authenticity and want to know more about AI (AGI) and cloud computing.
- General readers who want to understand more about cloud computing and the ethics of AI in an engaging format
- Upmarket fiction readers attracted to the redemption themes, flawed hero, and moral complexity
- Book club members who want "smart page-turners"
- People who read both upmarket fiction and commercial thrillers

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