



Surveillance

Reece Hirsch

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When former computer-crimes prosecutor Chris Bruen and retired hacktivist Zoey Doucet open their San Francisco law firm, it's the best day of their professional lives. That is, until their first client walks through the door.

Ian Ayres is an "ethical hacker" who was hired by a company to test the security of its online systems. On the job, he uncovered some highly classified information: the existence of a top-secret government surveillance agency and its Skeleton Key, a program that can break any form of encryption. Now Ayres is on the run. And after government agents descend on Chris and Zoey's office during their potential client's visit—killing two employees—they, too, are forced to flee for their lives.

From California to Ecuador to Mexico, the trio must try to evade a hired assassin, a bloodthirsty drug cartel, and their own government. But how can they escape an adversary that can access every phone call, every email, every video feed?

Surveillance is critically acclaimed author Reece Hirsch's third book in the Chris Bruen series.

Surveillance Details

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Author : Reece Hirsch

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Paromjit says

This is a fantastic non stop thrill ride from beginning to end. It is the first book that I have read of the series and I am hooked! It gives us a gobsmacking picture of how all encompassing government surveillance actually is and its capacity to spy on citizens. Chris and Zoe are forced to go on the run after government agents enter their offices and kill people. They are after a client that is an ethical hacker who has come across dangerous information. It is a story of adrenaline charged twists and turns and you can't help but find yourself completely engrossed. This thriller has everything and I loved it. Many thanks to Thomas and Mercer for a copy via netgalley.

Francisco Moraes says

Disclaimer: I received an early copy of this book from the author for exchange for an honest review.

I devoured the book, page by page and enjoyed reading the new Chris Bruen story as much as I enjoyed the other two novels in the series.

The story picks up with Chris and Zoe opening their new practice, getting the new office started when their first customer walks in after discovering the existence of a secret government agency. Things get busy as the trio is chased by the operatives from the agency with almost non stop action and surprises until reaching another great ending to the narrative, with a Big Brother/1984 feel to it.

Donna Valente says

I received this book from Goodreads giveaway .Really good book!! Loved the main character. Everyone should read this.

Marcia says

Fascinating Cybercrimes Reading

If you decide to read this book read Book 1, The Adversary and Book 2 Intrusion. Surveillance can stand alone, but the back story of Chris Bruen and Zoey Ducet will lure you further in to their exploits if you fully understand their back story. I hope Hirsch writes Book 4.

I chose this book for obvious reasons, it was the third in a series, and I loved the two that came before it. I seriously could not put these books down. Now you need to know this about me, when I find books I like, that is often the case. I like to read books that intrigue me, take me on a journey as if I am part of the story. I want to be thinking about the books when I have completed them, questioning where the author came up with their novel narrative and how they have been able to grasp the concepts and detail on the focus topics and characters lives. In-other-words, I want to authenticate. I like to think I am educated enough to discern fact from fiction. It is grand to read a book where an author follows that very thin line between the two. That

is why I liked Surveillance with all of its cyber twists and turns, and all of the books I have read in the Chris Bruen Novel series. You have to simply read between the lines.

I like to learn and discern when I read. Reece Hirsch does a wonderful job of outlining fascinating story lines that suck you in so you can do just that. Read Surveillance. You won't be disappointed.

Itsy Bitsy Book Bits says

This novel will make you think twice about looking things up on the internet, who you call, and going any place with security cameras. Reece Hirsch writes a very compelling novel about how the government is always watching what we do and who we meet, not to mention what we research on the internet, what we buy if it is of interest to them. Hirsch will leave you chewing your fingernails with how she created this stunning techno thriller. In a world where everything we do is completely computerized right down to how we send a text or receive a phone call, it will leave you wondering if you are on a list and what the government knows about you just from a few things off the internet. This novel is as far as you can get from a conspiracy theory or theorist, but will have you wondering by the end of the first chapter.

With a very diverse cast of characters you can relate to or know someone who fits in with them, Hirsch has taken writing a thriller to a whole new level and sets the bar high for others to follow. No matter what they do, Hirsch has written a scene or scenario that they find themselves in and try to get out of without getting caught. Chris and Ian team up to help each other stay alive and to figure out who and why they are targeted for elimination; while Zoey contacts someone who isn't on the law abiding side to help her stay alive, she finds herself disappearing completely off the grid so they can't find her. When Zoey reaches her destination, she is met with some hostility. The best plot twist that no one would ever see coming a mile away, this story will keep you on the edge of your seat. With a very sad but hilarious ending, Zoey and Chris make it out and live to see each other again.

Hirsch wrote with just enough romance to keep even the hard core thriller fans captivated yet writing like it was a love story with trials and tribulations he can catch the romantic side of danger without making it a blood and guts kind of thriller.

I hope you enjoy this as much as I have.

Remember- Big Brother is always watching you no matter what!

Dave says

Thank you author Reece Hirsch for this signed copy of *Surveillance*. Also, thank you to goodreads.com for hosting this opportunity through the First Reads program.

I think this was a really good read. At just south of 300 pages, expect pretty much non-stop action from essentially beginning to end, with a few sections between to catch your breath. I was quickly drawn in to to story and just didn't want to let go.

There is a good character set of believable people, having normal skill sets for their respective jobs. No super-heroes here. Only two quick breaks from this scenario occurred with the final showdown. Ian takes three from a professional marksman at close range and can still make a soccer kick, and Corbin fiddles about with Chris and Zoey too long. but, it's a story, and a very entertaining story at that. That is what it's all about.

The basis of the story is always an interesting one, especially these days. I'd like to know more, but then, no, I don't. Data collection from smart phones alone is breathtaking. Location, name, address, likes, interests,

what is bought, how much is paid, etc. All from one little smart device - for the marketing machine. Oh, and don't forget the connection to brain tumors by holding that thing to your head!

Anyway, I highly recommend this book. A good read.

Nenette says

There was just one seemingly quiet moment at the start when Chris and Zoey opened Bruen and Associates for the first time. After that it was non-stop action all the way to the end. I read as fast as the actions unfolded, as it couldn't be helped. I'm grateful I started this on a weekend, though I don't think I'll go to the extreme and call in sick if work will get in the way of reading. I still need my paycheck to buy books, after all.

One thing I'm missing from this book/series is the actual courtroom action. It would be a welcome respite to read how all this will be dealt with in court. Yes, it may be argued that the turnout of events is the defense itself, yet still... I'm no lawyer but I am a big fan of legal thrillers, and in my book, legal equals courtroom.

I've read all of Reece Hirsch's works and he has yet to disappoint. Even without an advance copy, he is one author I will always watch the "what's new" section for, and be the first to buy.

Laszlo says

Thanks God I'm in the second half of my life,started back in just after the II WW. ,.....
Security !....??....Privacy. ?? ...that is the question !??!
Nice story line, well told !
Thanks Laszlo

Ps. Thanks Reece to sand it to me ,....to put me in thinking mode !

Sally Lindsay-briggs says

I was blown away with this story. Everyone was being watched for nefarious purposes. Chris, an attorney, his girlfriend Zoey and Ian have become embroiled in eluding an agency that does not have their best interests in mind. Believe me, that is an understatement! This free, Goodreads Giveaway was very well done. It included lots of information about how we can be observed without our knowledge. It was also full of tons of excitement, and twists and turns in the plot that kept me unwilling to put the book down. My kind of book!

Sue says

SURVEILLANCE, a cyber thriller by author Reece Hirsch's is the third book in the Chris Bruen series. His first book, *The Insider*, was a finalist for the 2011 International Thriller Writers Award for Best First Novel. His next three books, *The Adversary*, *Intrusion*, and *Surveillance*, all feature former Department of Justice cybercrimes prosecutor Chris Bruen.

I was fortunate to receive an ARC from the author in exchange for an honest review.

When former computer-crimes prosecutor Chris Bruen and retired hacktivist Zoey Doucet open their San Francisco Privacy and Security law firm, things can't get much better! That is, until their first client, Ian Ayres walks through the door....and then their lives take a drastic change and danger is in the wings.

Ian was a former hacker but now has turned to private practice to help businesses test the security of their firewalls and online systems.

"On the job, he uncovered some highly classified information: the existence of a top-secret government surveillance agency and its Skeleton Key, a program that can break any form of encryption. Now Ayres is on the run. And after government agents descend on Chris and Zoey's office during their potential client's visit—killing two employees—they, too, are forced to flee for their lives."

"From California to Ecuador to Mexico, the trio must try to evade a hired assassin, a bloodthirsty drug cartel, and their own government. But how can they escape an adversary that can access every phone call, every email, every video feed?"

Being an IT person with background in mainframe security, I found this cyber-security novel a thrilling and realistic read. This well written novel takes you into the world of spies, black ops and hackers. Who do you trust? If you enjoy watching TV series, "Person of Interest", you will love this book. Read this series...you won't be disappointed! Thank you again Reece for an enjoyable nail-biting journey.

A. HAMBLY says

Cyberspace thriller!!

A cyberspace thriller that takes you into a world of greed, cover up and corruption. The story travels from San Francisco, to Mexico and Equador in a fast paced game of cat and mouse. Lots of high tech detail...way above my head.

Heather says

ARC from the author for review.

Reece Hirsch writes a good Cyber Thriller.

Chris and Zoey are back home in San Francisco and seem to be getting settled. They have opened a new Privacy and Security law firm together. Everything is going well as they work to set up and organize the office. That is, until the first new potential client walks through the door and their lives are turned upside down and they are in danger again.

This book revolves around domestic surveillance. Although Chris and Zoey did nothing wrong, they are deemed guilty and a threat to National Security because of the young man that Chris wasn't even going to represent. So begins a race to stay alive.

There is very little real privacy for anyone because of the Internet, cell phones, especially smartphones, the fancy new televisions, computers with and without a webcam, CCTV just about everywhere, etc. How much government domestic surveillance is for our protection and how much is used against us? Who, exactly, is overseeing data collection? It's frightening that a few have so much power over the people, and they decide who lives and who dies.

This book doesn't end with a cliffhanger but it does end with unfinished business. This is a good addition to the Chris Bruen series.

Judy Dubrule says

Excellent. Could not put this book down. Something just keeps happening. The scary part was that it could all happen. The internet is so new that most people don't understand it. Privacy is a thing of the past. When you meet someone new, your friends and family tell you their life story. This book really makes you think about things like that.

Elizabeth A. says

There's a saying that no good deed goes unpunished, and surely something similar to that has to be top of mind when Ian Ayres walks into the San Francisco law firm of Chris Bruen. A so-called "ethical hacker," someone who hacks into companies at their request to test their cybersecurity and show them where their weaknesses are, Ayres found far more than he bargained for on his last job.

While conducting what he thought was a routine security probe, he came across information that indicates the existence of a highly classified, top-secret government organization, one which has apparently developed a program called Skeleton Key that can break any form of encryption. Unclear whether the program is on the company's servers intentionally or if they're being hacked/surveilled, Ayres brings his discovery to their attention. And that's when all hell breaks loose.

When the company that hired Ayres not only cuts all ties with him but denies having hired him in the first place and accuses him of hacking their system, Ayres knows he's stumbled onto something far out of his league and that he desperately needs help. Enter Chris Bruen. A former Department of Justice cybercrime prosecutor, Bruen is well known to those in the hacking community, and it's him Ayres turns to for help. Along with his partner, Zoey Doucet, a former black-hat hacker turned ethical hacker, Bruen has literally just opened the doors of his new private practice for the first day of business when Ayres shows up on the doorstep with his problem, and a whole lot of trouble in tow.

Not wanting to talk in an enclosed space he's not vetted, Ayres gets Bruen to take a walk with him, during which he relays his story. Initially skeptical, any doubts Bruen has about how serious a rabbit hole Ayres has uncovered are put into stark perspective when upon returning to his office they find two dead employees...and an ominous dark-suited man intent on adding Bruen and Ayres to the body count. And with that, Surveillance, the third entry in the Chris Bruen series, is off to the races.

Fortunately, Doucet was not in the office when the assassin showed up, but her and Bruen being in separate locations when the time arises for them to run, and run now without looking back, means they are scattered in different directions for the majority of the book, each dealing with their own set of problems. Of course, it's a pretty big set of problems when staying alive means trying to stay one step ahead of a foe who has the ability to tap into every email, phone call, CCTV feed, bank card transaction, or Internet usage you engage in. Heading up the hunt for Bruen, Doucet and Ayres is Sam Reston, a longtime NSA vet now heading up a team at The Working Group, the deceptively innocuous name for the deeply under the radar government agency responsible for the Skeleton Key, and which is desperate to keep its existence secret.

Author Reece Hirsch, himself a partner in an international law firm and co-chair of its privacy and cybersecurity practice, is very familiar with cybersecurity and the lengths people will go to in order to keep secrets. Hirsch has put that practical knowledge, and some serious research, to good use in developing the character of Chris Bruen. By giving Bruen a background as both a teen hacker and former DoJ cybercrime prosecutor, Bruen comes to the table with a unique perspective, able to see things from both sides of the cybersecurity issue. It makes for a compelling lead, as Bruen is not always sure he's doing the right thing, questioning whether he's on the proper "moral high ground" as the complex issues of privacy, hacking, and leaking of information ill-gained but arguably crucial to the public's well-being continually evolve.

And while Surveillance does not lack for a heaping helping of high-tech gadgets and information, as well as globetrotting action—by the time all's said and done Bruen, Doucet and Reston have been as far-flung as California, Mexico, Ecuador and Russia—it's the way Hirsch brings those moral questions in to play that elevate Surveillance, and the entire Chris Bruen series, above the run-of-the-mill thriller.

L.A. Starks says

If you can be found anywhere and by a multitude of technologies, how would you hide? Hirsch's familiarity with the tech industry and his research into the NSA turbocharge this page-turning thriller. Recommended, especially for thriller readers.
