



Luminarium

Alex Shakar

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Winner of the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize for Fiction. A *Washington Post* notable book of the year, a *New York Times* editor's choice, named a best book of the year by *Publishers Weekly*, *Booklist*, the *Austin Chronicle*, and the *Kansas City Star*.

Fred Brounian and his twin brother, George, were once co-CEOs of a burgeoning New York City software company devoted to the creation of utopian virtual worlds. Now, in the summer of 2006, as two wars rage and the fifth anniversary of 9/11 approaches, George has fallen into a coma, control of the company has been wrenched away by a military contracting conglomerate, and Fred has moved back in with his parents. Broke and alone, he's led by an attractive woman, Mira, into a neurological study promising to give him "peak" experiences and a newfound spiritual outlook on life. As the study progresses, lines between the subject and the experimenter blur, and reality becomes increasingly porous. Meanwhile, Fred finds himself caught up in what seems at first a cruel prank: a series of bizarre emails and texts that purport to be from his comatose brother.

Moving between the research hospitals of Manhattan, the streets of a meticulously planned Florida city, the neighborhoods of Brooklyn and the uncanny, immersive worlds of urban disaster simulation; threading through military listserv geek-speak, Hindu cosmology, the maxims of outmoded self-help books and the latest neuroscientific breakthroughs, *Luminarium* is a brilliant examination of the way we live now, a novel that's as much about the role technology and spirituality play in shaping our reality as it is about the undying bond between brothers, and the redemptive possibilities of love.

"Luminarium is dizzyingly smart and provocative, exploring as it does the state of the present, of technology, of what is real and what is ephemeral. But the thing that separates Luminarium from other books that discuss avatars, virtual reality and the like is that Alex Shakar is committed throughout with trying, relentlessly, to flat-out explain the meaning of life. This book is funny, and soulful, and very sad, but so intellectually invigorating that you'll want to read it twice." — Dave Eggers

"This fascinating, hilarious novel, though set in the past, is the story of the future: technology has outlapped us, reality is blinking on and off like a bad wireless connection, the ones we love are nearby in one sense, but far away in another. Yet at the book's galloping heart, it's the story of what one man is willing to go through to find—in our crowded, second-rate space—something like faith. This novel is sharp, original, and full of energy—obviously the work of a brilliant mind." — Deb Olin Unferth, author of *Revolution: The Year I Fell in Love and Went to Join the War*

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Richard Moyer:

A lot of people always spent their free time to vacation or maybe go to the outside with them friends and family or their friend. Do you realize? Many a lot of people spent these people free time just watching TV, or even playing video games all day long. If you wish to try to find a new activity that's look different you can read some sort of book. It is really fun for you personally. If you enjoy the book that you simply read you can spent the entire day to reading a publication. The book Luminarium it is rather good to read. There are a lot of people who recommended this book. We were holding enjoying reading this book. In the event you did not have enough space to develop this book you can buy typically the e-book. You can m0ore easily to read this book from the smart phone. The price is not to fund but this book has high quality.

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