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Screenshot.

Darrin, John (author).

May 2009. 416p. Kunati, hardcover, \$24.95
[\(9781601641687\)](#).

[REVIEW](#). First published [May 1, 2009 \(Booklist\)](#).



It was only a matter of time before someone took that next step in the digital world: murder, broadcast over the Internet for all the world to see. First a drug lord goes down, then a pedophile, then a mobster. The public is at once incensed and intrigued; the vigilante aspect—the victims are bad guys, after all—somehow makes the spectacle less appalling and adds to the sicko entertainment factor. When the killer announces that he will accept bids for the right to pull the cybertrigger for the next execution, the online world ponies up. The only ones who can stop the madness, apparently, are disgruntled FBI investigator Karen, freelance journalist Seth, and gifted but overlooked scientist Dr. Sicals. The unlikely trio joins forces to prevent further killings, and the pursuit keeps readers on the edge of their seats. The central question of whether killing one for the greater good of many should be tolerated is treated with a bit of a heavy hand, but the author's message doesn't distract overmuch from what is a satisfying debut thriller.

— *Mary Frances Wilkens*

