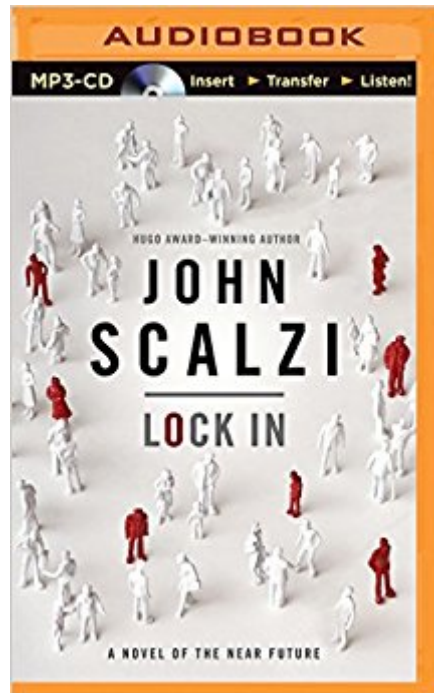




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# Lock In (Narrated By Wil Wheaton)



## Synopsis

A blazingly inventive near-future thriller from the bestselling, Hugo Award-winning John Scalzi. Not too long from today, a new, highly contagious virus makes its way across the globe. Most who get sick experience nothing worse than flu, fever, and headaches. But for the unlucky one percent—and nearly five million souls in the United States alone—the disease causes "Lock In." Victims fully awake and aware, but unable to move or respond to stimulus. The disease affects young, old, rich, poor, people of every color and creed. The world changes to meet the challenge. A quarter of a century later, in a world shaped by what's now known as "Haden's syndrome," rookie FBI agent Chris Shane is paired with veteran agent Leslie Vann. The two of them are assigned what appears to be a Haden-related murder at the Watergate Hotel, with a suspect who is an "integrator"—someone who can let the locked in borrow their bodies for a time. If the Integrator was carrying a Haden client, then naming the suspect for the murder becomes that much more complicated. But "complicated" doesn't begin to describe it. As Shane and Vann began to unravel the threads of the murder, it becomes clear that the real mystery—and the real crime—is bigger than anyone could have imagined. **BONUS AUDIO:** This audio edition of Lock In contains the bonus novella, *Unlocked: An Oral History of Haden's Syndrome*, written by John Scalzi and narrated by a full cast.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“The novel—which contains plenty of action, great character development, vivid and believable worldbuilding and a thought-provoking examination of disability culture and politics—is definitely

worth the ride. • Kirkus Reviews (starred review) --This text refers to the Mass Market Paperback edition.

John Scalzi is one of the most popular and acclaimed SF authors to emerge in the last decade. His massively successful debut *Old Man War* won him science fiction's John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer. His New York Times bestsellers include *The Last Colony*, *Fuzzy Nation*, and *Redshirts*; which won 2013's Hugo Award for Best Novel. Material from his widely read blog *The Whatever* ([whatever.scalzi.com](http://whatever.scalzi.com)) has also earned him two other Hugo Awards. He lives in Ohio with his wife and daughter.

*Lock In* is a detective story set in a near-future, where an epidemic disease called Haden locks people into their own body. Those afflicted get the ability to function in society by projecting themselves either into artificial bodies, or into other people, called "integrators", that survived the disease without being locked in, and who develop the ability to host other people's minds. The story follows Chris Shane, a newly appointed FBI agent (the book is written in 1st person from his/her perspective "interestingly Chris's gender is never revealed) and his/her partner Leslie Vann. On Chris's first day in the job, a murder is committed in the infamous Watergate Hotel and appears to involve an integrator. What follows is a detective thriller with strong political overtones, as all this takes place when most special benefits awarded to Haden sufferers by the government, are about to expire. I really liked the tone of the story. There are almost no dull moments between the exploration of conspiracies, the political developments, the well-executed action sequences and the occasional humorous touches. Scalzi managed to make me grow fond of his characters even though they sometimes have a hard time escaping their stereotypical traits. Last but not least, the back story is original, captivating and elegantly exposed. It's a bit of a shame then, that the big reveal in the end is much less satisfying than it could have been. \*slight spoiler in the next sentence\* It involves lots of computer science concepts, that aren't solid enough to resist the critical eye of computer-fluent readers and will likely leave others confused. \*spoiler ends\*. The epilogue is unnecessarily long as well. Your enjoyment of the book will directly depend on how tight you need a plot to be. If you value mood and world-building over the actual detective part, *Lock in* may be better suited to you than it was to me.

Just finished the book. It's classic Scalzi, meaning that if you're a fan of his writing to start with, you

won't be disappointed. If you haven't read any of his books, this is a good one to get acquainted with him. The story is original, though it does borrow some of the more futuristic technology from the Old Man's War series, with regard to in-brain computers. The story takes place in the near future, though it's not exactly clear how far in the near-future. The futuristic technology is very restrained for a sci-fi novel, basing all of it on natural progressions of today's technology. The same can be said for the state of culture and politics in the story (corporate greed, gay marriage, socialism and healthcare). I read another comment that mentioned how the gender of the main character, Chris, is intentionally ambiguous. I didn't give it a thought as I was reading the book, I just assumed Chris was male - but I suppose that's because I'm male and the main protagonist of almost all of the books I read is male. I'm trying to think now if there is anything in the book that would indicate male/female either way, but aside from the fact that most women spell the name Kris instead of Chris, I can't think of anything. I would say that FBI partners tend to pair either two males or a male & female, but Vann's former partner was a female, so that theory doesn't work in this setting. I guess the point is, it doesn't matter and doesn't diminish or distract from the book. Just interesting to think about in retrospect.

Lock In was a phenomenal surprise. Creating a believable near-future where humans and robots work side-by-side is no small feat. Filling that future with relatable characters suffering under real-world injustices is pure artistry. No character comes across as contrived or silly, and that's saying something when the our world must undergo some drastic changes in order to transform into the world of Lock In. Lock in is a high-headed social commentary that transforms into a noir thriller in a heartbeat. I wish The Agora - the cyberspace experienced by Locked In humans - were more fleshed out. Only one character in the space is ever directly described, and even that description can be taken as metaphor. We're left to assume that people in The Agora appear much like their real selves, but this is never explicitly stated. This leaves me wondering if there was a point where Agora avatars were described more clearly but this description was left on the cutting room floor.

In this book John Scalzi looks into the not too distant future and sees a disease ravishing humanity and resulting in the worst stage of total paralysis called lock in. While the person is fully aware, all motor skill messages to the brain are not responded to which sucks. People are able to function through a technological doppelganger and carry on. Haden's syndrome as it is called has received huge government support up to now however the Politicians decide that the money could be spent better elsewhere and are about to end funding. Then the impossible happens, murders are

occurring and the technology required to control the human Integrators does not exist. Who is behind the murders and how does it benefit them when the government is withdrawing all funding? Again Scalzi has inhabited his story with high functioning disfunctional characters. A great ride of a story line all compressed into a single week. A shout out to the proof reader who skipped Chapter 17 and let all those words go missing. You'll know what I mean when you read the book. If you like sarcastic disfunctional characters with attitude and a chip on their shoulder; Scalzi is your go to guy

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