



The Jericho Iteration

Allen M. Steele

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In the year 2013, investigative reporter Gerry Rosen is tracking the biggest story of his career--a corrupt corporation is poised to unleash a sinister artificial lifeform on the earthquake-ravaged city of St. Louis. When people around Gerry start to die, he becomes a fugitive in his own city, and begins to suspect that the story of a lifetime may be the death of him yet.

The Jericho Iteration Details

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Author : Allen M. Steele

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From Reader Review The Jericho Iteration for online ebook

Tomislav says

My wife and I lived in University City through the 1980s; two of our kids were born there, and I went to graduate school at Wash U. So, I know all the cited landmarks throughout Forest Park, south St. Louis, Clayton, U. City, etc., etc., etc. Not only that, because the book was written in 1994, it is *exactly* the St. Louis I remember. I might also mention that I did some foundation work on my house for purposes of earthquake reinforcement during that time.

On the other hand, I found the science fictional concept which finally comes out near the end of the book, to be pretty naive. It would be a spoiler to talk more about it, so I will stop there.

In the end, I truly enjoyed the book for its locale; not sure how others less familiar would fare.

Tomer says

{2.5 stars}

Not all books age the same way, especially when you refer to models \ brands, which become obsolete. I am not saying it is a bad book, but it was surely more exciting nearly 25 years ago. Today the futuristic vision is 5 years behind me resulting in certain aspects which seem naive or wishful thinking by the author {other technical ones a bit over simplistic}. Nonetheless there is a mystery to be solved, but as the fundamental premise of it has been churned quite thoroughly by now, it tuned out to be a quiet uneventful read.

Maryann Fox says

I had hope this book would be about the massive earthquake that levels St Louis, which is why I chose to read it. Instead it delved a little about the earthquake and its aftermath and primarily about a murder and conspiracy-[art pf a series.

Disappointed

Sergei_kalinin says

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Sarah says

not really the book i was expecting to read. was expecting enviro-post-apocalyptic-thriller and it was more techno-conspiracy thriller. and kinda boring and draggy at that.

MarvV says

My very favorite book by Allen Steele. I found it one very fast furious read. The author always sticks to the best of hard science fiction in that everything in can reasonably happen from today's science. Few hold this standard as well as Mr Steele while still being very readable.

Scott Holstad says

Not a bad book and a big departure from Steele's normal space adventures. This one revolves around Gerry Rosen, a reporter for a St. Louis alternative newspaper in a post-quake city disaster. It has been a good 10 months since the quake hit, but the Emergency Relief Authority (ERA) refuses to leave. They are the Gestapo in this story, and yet they're spoiled rich prep kids in uniform, trying to avoid normal military service. That was odd. When Gerry's best friend and fellow reporter ends up dead while investigating something mysterious involving the Tiptree Corporation and its recently released satellite, which is circling the earth in order to spy on American citizens and possibly engage in military action, Rosen retrieves his friend's notes and becomes a target of assassins himself.

While I enjoyed the book, it takes place in 2013, not too far off from the 1994 publication date of the book. Yet it's amazing how much Steele got wrong about future technology. He got palm computing right, I'll

admit, but you've still got modems, floppy discs, etc., etc., and the artificial intelligence that he writes about toward the end of the book has probably already been duplicated 20 times over by now. I think he even used DOS. Pretty funny.

So, Steele's not a future teller, like Philip K Dick was, but he still tells a good story and it is pretty riveting, and while it's not a five star book, I do heartily recommend it for all.

Robert says

I met Steele some years back at a Scifi Con in Orlando where he was the guest of honor. I had never read any of his books at the time and frequently start reading an author because they guest at a con. I started with Coyote and completed the entire series and have read two or three of his other books. Jericho was hardly the best but it was interesting and when it hit the point in the story where the first real "artificial intelligence" was revealed and that it was actually good rather than evil I found that was a pleasant and interesting surprise. Some of the plot line was a little along the political lines of the Coyote series. Overall the book was good and different which helped make it more interesting. The funny thing since the story is basically in our current time frame is how much computer interaction and the internet have evolved in reality. The book actually is a bit behind in this respect even though it would have been a bit ahead when written.

Phil Kozel says

A fun, if dated read. I love Steele, and this stand alone novel is prescient in many ways-- substitute St. Louis for New Orleans, the rise of the surveillance state, etc. Yet, in many ways the tech he imagines is (now) passe. Nonetheless, an enjoyable techno-thriller.

Craig says

An early departure from Steele's specialty of space exploration, this is a fast-paced high-tech thriller set in the near-future that holds up quite well.

Al Cormier says

This is a very good adventure revolving around Gerry Rosen, a staff reporter for a local alternative newspaper in post disaster St. Louis. It has been almost a year since a major earthquake devastated this large city. But, though the local authorities have repeatedly advised that they could handle the reconstruction and law enforcement issues, the Emergency Relief Authority (ERA) refuses to leave. When another reporter begins investigating this odd behavior, he ends up dead. Gerry is able to retrieve his notes--and something else--which puts him on the short list of the unknown assassin.

I enjoyed this book very much. It was written--in 1994--as a near-future Sci-Fi adventure, and does a pretty good job. The only thing--and this is minor--was his basic computer technology was a little dated (DOS). But that took nothing from this otherwise great action adventure. 4 of 5 stars :o)

John says

St. Louis has been devastated by a 7.5 earthquake. The Emergency Relief Agency (ERA) was mobilized and martial law was declared. Gerry Rosen, the novel's wise-cracking protagonist and reporter for the local Big Muddy Inquirer, has just learned that his friend and fellow reporter, John Tiernan, has been murdered after being shot with a laser beam. The only knowledge that Gerry has regarding the situation is what the woman looked like who requested the meeting through Gerry and the message that she requested that he pass along, "Ruby fulcrum."

This novel combines elements of both science-fiction and a murder mystery set in a dystopian environment. The ERA maintaining martial law, behaving more like swaggering Nazis, add a thriller element to this enjoyable novel.

Benjamin Thomas says

In the year 2012, a huge earthquake destroyed much of the Midwest United States. Now, a year later, the city of St Louis is trying to come back from the brink of extinction and the heavy-handed Emergency Relief Agency carries out their tasks utilizing martial law. Gerry Rosen is an investigative reporter who finds himself chasing after a big story but not quite sure where it will lead. What he does know is that people around him are getting killed and it all involves a mysterious something with a code name, *Ruby fulcrum*. As he follows the trail and becomes a fugitive himself, Gerry uncovers a conspiracy of monumental proportions involving the federal government and artificial intelligence.

It sounds like a techno-thriller and, indeed, that's the way this novel reads. However, it is actually science fiction, having been published in 1994 and with the setting being the "near future" of 2013. Reading it now in 2018, is much like reading a contemporary thriller albeit with a few twists where the author's guesstimate of then-current trends would lead. I confess that part of the fun I had reading this novel was being spoon-fed those little tidbits that turned out to be mostly incorrect. But even though CompuServe and Commodore did not last to be the tech mega-companies that they are in the book, nor do we concern ourselves with fax machines and long-distance rates in 2013, all that really doesn't matter. The fact that the states of Oregon and Washington succeeded from the US and became the country of "Cascadia" however, is integral to the plot and so the book, in fact, becomes a bit more like reading a sci-fi thriller.

This book is quite a bit different than most of Allen Steele's more space-adventure works but his fans will still appreciate his tight prose, quality characterization and tech-savvy climactic scenes. Another good one from Mr. Steele.

Lew says

I picked this book up mainly because it takes place in St.Louis. I had never read a book that takes place

where I live. It added to the story which started one way and ended up in a totally different direction, in a good way. This book was written in the mid-90s so some of his prediction of how things would be in 2013 were off the mark and humorous.

Tiffany Robbins says

It was wonderful and amazing. I had to laugh at a lot of places just because he makes so many logical leaps about the direction that technology was going in the mid-90s, and yet, technology went different places. It was kind of nostalgic in a way to remember how excited we were for the future of VR and those type of things. He did use a lot of “palm top” computers which were very similar to the smart phones and pads we are using now. I’d have to say he nailed that part. I must admit that I really love post-disaster fiction. It was an automatic win for me.
