

News Release from



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CONTACT: David A. Rozansky
(303)375-0499, PublicRelations@FlyingPenPress.com

'LOOKING GLASS' BY JAMES R. STRICKLAND IS MURDER BY INTERNET

Flying Pen Press to publish new author's cyberpunk mystery this summer

DENVER — Flying Pen Press announced a publication date for James R. Strickland's *Looking Glass* (ISBN: 978-0-9795889-0-7), a science-fiction mystery about a cyberspace serial killer and the troubled "Shroud" who pursues the mysterious murderer on a journey of vengeance. The publication date is set for June 1. The book will premiere May 25 at the Tattered Cover Bookstore in downtown "LoDo" Denver.

Looking Glass is set in the not too distant future, in a gritty, unrefined, shattered North America, torn apart by civil war and terrorism. Hackers and IT security technicians fight a different kind of war every day on the net. A serial killer appears in this deadly game of cat and mouse. The killer has found a way to use the network to reach inside his victims' minds, and use these minds as his weapons. Death is painful and swift, and there is no defense.

"Shroud" is the online name of Dr. Catherine Farro. She is a security network team leader for a large retail company. Shroud is a paraplegic, but in the realm of cyberspace, inside a sensory deprivation tank and "jacked in" to the network, she is fast, nimble, capable, and ruthless.

Shroud is just beginning her shift when the killer strikes for the first time. She survives, but her entire team is dead or missing. She is exiled from her corporate resources when the company to which she has given so much turns against her in a tempest of crisis management. Despite the obstacles in her path, she is bent on vengeance, and her search for the mysterious, anonymous killer is fraught with peril and overwhelming odds.

Looking Glass is Strickland's first novel. Strickland spent ten years working in system and network administration and technical support, in Silicon Valley and Colorado Springs. "High tech work is fast paced and rewarding," he said in a recent interview, "but after a while you realize you're fighting the same problems over and over again, and that if you ever manage to actually solve those problems, you'll probably get laid off."

Strickland has crafted his "LookingGlass World," as he calls it, out of the high tech world of today. He writes about a culture steeped in jargon and acronyms that would normally seem foreign to most readers, yet he incorporates this language into his writing without alienating his readers. The hard edged slang and jargon — expected of a cyberpunk novel — are never forced. The story reads clearly, and offers a thrill-packed, relentlessly paced story as Shroud rushes towards the climactic — and surprising — ending.

Strickland described the force that drives his novel. "What's real? That question is a matter of life and death in this novel. The setting, the plot, the characters, even the cover and the title, all drive this concept home. Information defines reality. In this world, everything about everybody becomes known in a flash. Everyone lives in perpetual information overload. Corporations and government fight over that information. How do you know what's real? How can you tell? And how do you react? That's what I wanted to explore."

Looking Glass by James R. Strickland,

A science-fiction novel set in the LookingGlass World.

Published by Flying Pen Press LLC, June 2007, under the imprint Flying Pen Press Science Fiction.

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308 pages, glossary, 5.5"w x 8.5"h x 0.645" thick, 0.869 lb.

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