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Veteran cybercrime investigative reporter releases final book in 'Breaking Backbones Hacker Trilogy'

Cy and her hacking clan use a powerful AI to dismantle a criminal empire and reallocate criminal gains to worthy causes as their enemies pursue them

KIHEI, Hawaii – In this exciting conclusion to the “Breaking Backbone Hacker Trilogy” titled “Breaking Backbones: From Chaos to Order” ([published by Archway Publishing](#)), Cy and Ying are locked in a lover’s triangle while their respective governments try to exploit them for their access to a powerful new Artificial Intelligence (AI) named Telos. From their hideout at the Russian River, Cy and her freedom hackers are using Telos to systematically dismantle Damian Strandeski’s criminal empire and redistribute the criminal gains to victims, the needy, and important social causes, reigning in a new era of innovation and sustainable technology. Ying, meanwhile, is using a copy of Telos at an estate in France to get revenge against those who interned her family in the work camps. She is also using Telos to find her missing husband, reported dead four years earlier, but who Ying discovers is very much alive—and with another woman.

“Just using Telos for these purposes puts Cy, Ying, and the clans in danger as larger forces come after Telos, and also raises ethical questions around unleashing an AI into the wild that was built in a Russian work camp with no guardrails,” Radcliff says. “We’re already seeing this happen with ChatGPT and Bard, which criminals are using for sextortion, to make recipes for bombs, and to create new hacking techniques that our current defenses are not prepared for.”

The book is full of cinematic action-packed scenes, colorful characters, and off-grid locations that the “Breaking Backbones” books have been winning awards for—and which makes them ideal for pickup as a streaming TV series. This final book has received high praise from her expert advisors, calling it “her best book yet,” and saying that her characters and world-building are “impressive.”

Radcliff adds, “My intent was to elevate the variety of experts working behind the scenes to protect people and systems, while telling a story that is intriguing for all readers from high school-aged onward. These books are different than other cyber thrillers in that they are rooted in reality, and the hackers are the good guys—who in book three even go so far as to assist the National Security Agency restore power to three major grids taken down by a rogue agent.”

Radcliff still works in the cybersecurity community as a highly regarded speaker, thought leader and writer. Learn more about her background and books at <https://debradcliff.com/about.html>. Or find her on: Linked-in, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube.

“Breaking Backbones: From Chaos to Order”

By Deb Radcliff

Hardcover | 6 x 9in | 290 pages | ISBN 9781665747271

Softcover | 6 x 9in | 290 pages | ISBN 9781665747257

E-Book | 290 pages | ISBN 9781665747264

Available at Amazon and Barnes & Noble

About the Author

Deb Radcliff was the first journalist to make cybercrime a reporting beat starting in 1995. Throughout her career, she has met smart and talented hackers, cybercops, intelligence officers, and vigilantes who are the basis of the colorful fictional characters described in her stories. She has won several awards for her coverage, including the most prestigious Neal Award (twice) for business investigative reporting. She is a speaker, writer, and thought leader who is still embedded in the communities she portrays in these stories.

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