



(U) Book Review: Cryptonomicon

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(U) With the weather being so dreary, rainy-day reading has become more of summertime activity than many would like. While the weather does take away some outdoor playtime opportunities, it also offers a terrific opportunity to curl up with a fantastic book that is likely to strike the fancy of many NSA employees. Neal Stephenson's Cryptonomicon, a New York Times bestseller, takes the reader on a journey from World War II to the present in a historically fictional representation of the development of cryptology, the breaking of the ENIGMA, the birth of the computer, and the founding of the National Security Agency.

(U) The book weaves in and out of two major storylines: the mesmerizing life of Lawrence Pritchard Waterhouse, a mathematical, code-breaking genius, and his participation in World War II; and Waterhouse's grandson Randy who takes after his grandfather, but now, in a technologically-advanced society. Stephenson has produced an enthralling work that proves to be as much of a history lesson as an eye-opening thriller. As an NSA employee, it is particularly entertaining to read the depictions of intelligence officials and code-breakers from days long past, and days more recent. It's a thick one, but well worth the time investment! What better way to take advantage of the rain than to add a new book to your list of favorites!

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