



Advocate of the truth is a literary thriller about the digital dragon that feeds on our privacy and the serious implications of nanochips registering and managing human behavior. On a more personal level, it is a deeply moving story about friendship, love and the compassion Francis of Assisi stands for. The fast-paced novel prompts you to reflect on wisdom from the past and ethics for the future. It is an intense struggle between good and evil that hits home in today's society.

Thomas is a former partner of a prestigious law firm who has left the high-powered and money-driven world of corporate law to pursue a more spiritual path, inspired by the life of Francis of Assisi. His best friend Sam controls Joia, a high tech research company based in Rome that has developed a groundbreaking technology. When he promises Sam to keep his Spider technology away from mankind at whatever cost, he has no clue what awaits him.

A chilling scenario unfolds when Luca, Joia's co-owner and chief scientist, is found dead in a hotel room in Rome. Authorities call it suicide, but that does not make sense to close friends of the Italian professor. Thomas is plunged into a web of greed, corporate espionage, organized crime and murder. As he finds signs pointing to a high-level conspiracy, a mysterious and deadly virus originating in Europe sweeps across the globe. Frightened politicians take advantage of the panic, with populism hitting fear buttons worldwide. A pandemic is looming, and so is anarchy.

Suddenly Sam's Spider technology has life-saving potential, raising profound ethical questions. Do we allow fear, greed and status to overrule the natural bonds between people? Should the privacy of individuals be sacrificed to the illusion of safety? How do we prevent technology from casting a dark shadow over the future? And ultimately: is mankind nearing its expiration date?

Thomas sets out to find the truth against a backdrop of manipulation, deceit and intimidation. Nothing is what it seems. His tense search leads him to the medieval Italian city of Assisi, oppressive boardrooms, back alleys, dimly-lit churches and a former monastery overlooking the Mediterranean. He is supported by his old college buddy Charles, a philosopher who has moved up the ranks of Dutch politics, and by Gianni, a quick-witted Italian lawyer in Rome. Meanwhile, he has two women vying for his heart: Sophia, a sensitive violinist who cared for his father in the final days of life, and Juliëtte, an alluring and intriguing Parisian he meets by chance in Tuscany.

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A perfect gift for the holiday season!

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