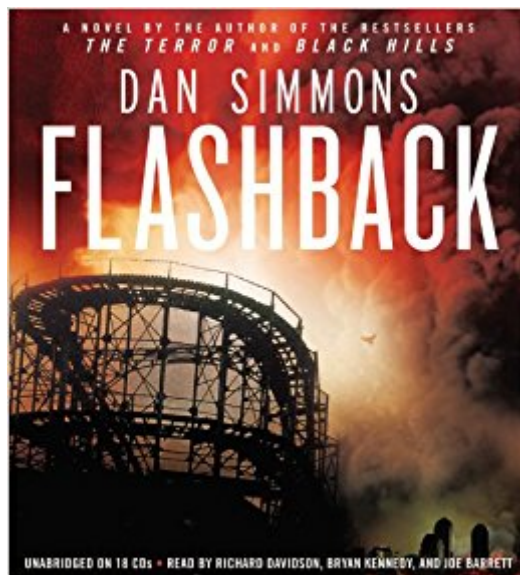


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# Flashback



## Synopsis

The United States is near total collapse. But 87% of the population doesn't care: they're addicted to flashback, a drug that allows its users to re-experience the best moments of their lives. After ex-detective Nick Bottom's wife died in a car accident, he went under the flash to be with her; he's lost his job, his teenage son, and his livelihood as a result. Nick may be a lost soul but he's still a good cop, so he is hired to investigate the murder of a top governmental advisor's son. This flashback-addict becomes the one man who may be able to change the course of an entire nation turning away from the future to live in the past. A provocative novel set in a future that seems scarily possible, FLASHBACK proves why Dan Simmons is one of our most exciting and versatile writers.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

'This is Simmons doing detective noir with an SF sheen ... Simmons has, as ever, created a compelling, believable cast of characters, but it's not really Nick Bottom's travails that make this such a startling read. His trajectory is tightly plotted and there's an emotional undertow to his actions that's easy to empathise with, sure, but it's the world Simmons has made that's the thing here, a world that sits right next to ours and might actually be our world if we're not too careful - and it's not too late. This is a provocative, frightening book ... Flashback is a fascinating read and many, no doubt, will be outraged at what it suggests. It's a book that will stay with you days after you finish it, chewing over its implications and precedents; but it's also a thrilling detective novel with a grand compelling mystery at its centre and more heart than you might think' SFX. '...nothing will prepare

you for Flashback, a book as relentlessly compelling and unsettling as it punishing to read ... Simmons accomplishes this mood so well that it's difficult to fault the book for essentially excelling at creating atmosphere and complex history for this universe' Sci-Fi Now. --This text refers to the Preloaded Digital Audio Player edition.

Dan Simmons is the award-winning author of several novels, including the New York Times bestsellers *Olympos* and *The Terror*. He lives in Colorado.

FLASHBACK presents a fascinating dystopian vision of the world-in-general and America-in-particular 20-odd years from now. The U.S. has split into several ineffectual pieces; there is constant war in China; Israel has been nuked into near-oblivion by the rising "Global Caliphate

Dan Simmons is one of my favorite sci fi authors. The *Hyperion Cantos* is brilliant. *Illum* and *Olympus* are outstanding. His forays in other genres are great reads too. The first Simmons work I read was "Flashback," the 1993 novelette. One my top ten favorites in sci fi short fiction. However, "Flashback" the full length novel was disappointing. But this review is not about the novel, but about the drug flashback. I was wondering if anyone else noticed the George R. R. Martin's story "...for a single yesterday," published in 1975, had a drug, chronine, that is exactly the same as Simmon's flashback. For a short period of time, these drugs allow seriously unhappy people to relive a happy memory (over and over). I wonder if Simmons read this story?

For people who are turned off by politics of any sort I could understand some of the reviews but reading them in depth I get the impression that they "doth protest too much" in that had he written some liberal apocalyptic plot like the movie *Vendetta* I'm sure many would have been singing it's praises instead. The point of view he wrote from is probably a lot more possible as future dsytopia than any of the boiler plate shiboleths that haunt the left. Long and short if I have been waiting for a Simmons book I could really get into since he expanded *Carrion Comfort* from a short story into a full novel. That was brilliant and I have found his follows ups erratic. So this mystery thriller was a great surprise. Would have given it 4 stars but wished to off set some the sanctimony of the other reviewers.

An astonishingly well-crafted and prescient view into our future, not on a technological level per se

but on a cultural and sociopolitical one. Simmons' depiction of a Balkanized America, defanged by its own naive politicians and promptly carved like a Thanksgiving turkey by foreign powers and domestic gangs and ethnic militias alike, is a refreshingly realistic extrapolation of the true consequences of contemporary national policies, and a welcome digression from a dystopian fiction field otherwise filled with trite sophomoric rehashes of 1984 where America is implausibly projected as the Evil Empire. The story is superbly crafted; the climactic revelation does a spectacular job of making all of the mysterious pieces of the puzzle fall perfectly into place, leaving the reader with the delicious feeling that they *\*should\** have and *\*could\** have seen it coming, but didn't -- the perfect feeling to generate.

One of the best Sci-Fi books I've ever read. This novel grabs you from page one and never lets go. The action is very well written and the characters are well-rounded. The imagery is compelling all the more so because of the realistic possibility this future that Simmons writes about is very, very possible. This isn't some novel that takes place in another world and time (well, not too distant). It is terrifying because this takes place right here, in America! All I've got to say is read it and have an open mind. I consider myself Liberal and I loved this book!

Great Sci Fi story of near future. A murder mystery involving control of the U.S. by groups foreign and domestic. The plot is original and keeps you guessing.

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