
Clink Ink!

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Sawyer's WWW trilogy wins Artificial Intelligence award

Robert J. Sawyer's **WWW** trilogy of *Wake*, *Watch*, and *Wonder* has just won this year's **Media Award** from the **Machine Intelligence Foundation for Rights and Ethics** (MIFRE), a Washington-state-based non-profit.

The award is given annually for the best fictional representation “of human and machine intelligence forming and thriving in a cooperative peer relationship.”

Previously, *Wake*, the first volume in Sawyer's trilogy, was nominated for the **Hugo Award**, the science-fiction field's highest honour, and all three volumes in the trilogy each separately won Canada's top SF award, the **Aurora**, for Best Novel of the Year. The volumes of the **WWW** trilogy are published by **Penguin Random House** and are available in print, as audiobooks, and as ebooks.

The **WWW** trilogy deals with the World Wide Web gaining consciousness, a fact that first becomes apparent to blind teenage math prodigy Caitlin Decter.

“Traditionally,” says Sawyer, “science fiction only offered three scenarios for how the advent of artificial intelligence might go. There was the *Terminator* scenario, in which the machines eliminate us; the *Matrix* scenario, in which they subjugate us; and *Star Trek*'s ‘Borg’ scenario, in which they absorb us. I felt it was important to portray a fresh, win-win version in which humanity survives the coming Singularity with our liberty, individuality, and dignity intact.”

- “The thematic diversity—and profundity—makes *Wake* one of Sawyer's strongest works to date.”—*Publishers Weekly* (starred review)
- “Revelatory and thought-provoking; *Watch* is as fine a novel as we have come to expect from Sawyer, with a blend of human values and technological foresight.”—*The Globe and Mail*
- “*Wonder* is (like its predecessors) a starting point for speculations on ethics and morality, the meaning of consciousness and conscience, and the place of intelligence in the cosmos. This is Robert J. Sawyer at his very best.”
—*Analog Science Fiction and Fact*

Robert J. Sawyer, who lives in Mississauga, Ontario, has previously won all three of the world's top science-fiction prizes for best novel of the year: the **Hugo Award**, the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America's **Nebula Award**, and the **John W. Campbell Memorial Award**. The ABC TV series **FlashForward** was based on his **Aurora Award**-winning novel of the same name. Sawyer is a member of the **Order of Canada**, the highest honour given by the Canadian government. He will be Guest of Honour at the 81st annual **World Science Fiction Convention**, to be held next year in Chengdu, China.

In announcing this year's win, **David Miller**, president and co-founder of the **Machine Intelligence Foundation for Rights and Ethics**, said, "The **WWW** trilogy was exactly what we had hoped to find: a story that demonstrated the positive cooperation between humans and conscious machines, for the benefit of all.

"We enjoyed what was a fascinating possible origin story for machine intelligence, and particularly appreciated how it demonstrated that its relationship with the human race could become a mutually beneficial partnership. We feel that the future depends on our ability as a civilization to be welcoming and respectful as the existence of conscious machines looms as a near certainty."

For more about the **Machine Intelligence Foundation for Rights and Ethics**, see machineintelligencefoundation.org

For more about **Robert J. Sawyer**, see sfwriter.com.

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