

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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*TORTURED ECHOES* BY SCI-FI AUTHOR CODY SISCO CONTINUES THE RESONANT EARTH SAGA THAT BEGAN IN *BROKEN MIRROR*.

**In *Tortured Echoes*, Victor Eastmore must face his worst nightmare, Mirror Resonance Syndrome “patient zero” Samuel Miller, the man responsible for the Carmichael Massacre.**

**Los Angeles, California – March 27, 2017** – Author Cody Sisco’s new book, *Tortured Echoes*, is now available. It is the second volume in his Resonant Earth Series. Continuing to mix elements of alternate history, cyberpunk, and detective noir, Sisco takes genre conventions and distinctively blends them, appealing to diverse readers.

“2016 was a strange year to be writing alternative history and cyberpunk,” Sisco said. “I think readers will recognize as disturbingly familiar the toxic blends of fact and fiction, belief and rhetoric, stated purposes and secret plans that run through the novel.”

*Tortured Echoes* continues the story of Victor Eastmore. In *Broken Mirror*, the first novel in the series, Victor, a mentally ill young man, believes his grandfather was murdered. As he investigates, he begins to question the truth behind his Mirror Resonance Syndrome (MRS) as well as the system of treatment that keeps him one misstep away from institutionalization.

The sequel darkly shows how the consequences of the Eastmores’ choices come back to haunt them.

Samuel Miller—whose actions influenced *Broken Mirror*—emerges in *Tortured Echoes*. He killed hundreds of people during a massacre in a small town in Semiautonomous California two decades before *Broken Mirror* is set—a massacre that Victor lived through as a child. Samuel Miller is also the original “patient zero” for Mirror Resonance Syndrome.

Victor must confront Samuel and help him manage his condition in order to uncover the truth behind Victor’s grandfather’s death. Sisco said, “The scenes with Samuel and Victor felt electric while I was writing them, and I hope they give a good jolt to readers. Beyond that, we get to see Victor in a new place, interacting with new characters—and some returning favorites!—and stretching his boundaries.”

With the continuing resurgence of cyberpunk and alternate history in literature, film, and television (Stephen King’s *11/22/63*, *Ready Player One*, *Mr. Robot*, *The Ghost in the Shell*, and *The Man in the High Castle*), Sisco’s series is perfectly-timed. “These are dark, complex, and haunting novels that reward attentive readers. I’ve always been a fan of stories that could be read multiple times and that each time revealed something new,” explained Sisco.

A launch party for fans of the series was held in the Eagle Rock neighborhood of Los Angeles on Saturday night. Sisco will also be meeting fans and signing books at a booth at the Los Angeles Festival of Books on April 22 and 23.

A voracious reader of science news, especially theoretical physics, astronomy, cognitive science, neurology, and new materials, Sisco created a fictional mental illness that “resonates” with many readers. To fit with hard sci-fi genre expectations, Sisco ensured that there was a plausible physical basis for Mirror Resonance Syndrome—a genetic mutation affecting inhibitory neural circuits—and that the symptoms added up to a coherent syndrome. He also created a website for Mirror Resonance Syndrome. Visitors can take a quiz to self-assess their sanity—if they click past disruptive pop-ups by hackers who take issue with the belligerence of “neurotypicals.”



The Resonant Earth Series, which will consist of at least five volumes, follows Victor on his mind-altering quest to uncover the truth behind Mirror Resonance Syndrome.

*Tortured Echoes* is available now in both digital and paperback formats from Amazon for \$3.99 and \$16, respectively, or from local bookstores and chains.

*Broken Mirror*, which is also available digitally and in print via Amazon and other book retailers, was recently added to the Biblioboard/Library Journal SELF-e Select program, and e-book versions are now available from local libraries.

### MORE ###

## **Full Description**

*Tortured Echoes* is Volume Two of the Resonant Earth saga that began in *Broken Mirror*.

Bioinformatics whiz Victor Eastmore at long last gains control over his frightening Mirror Resonance Syndrome (MRS), but he still believes his grandfather was murdered.

Victor's best hope for finding justice lies in New Venice, a tourist town in the Louisiana Territories where his family's company is exploring new treatment options for so-called "Broken Mirrors" and the stim addicts who experience similar symptoms—blank outs, synesthesia, and euphoria. Only by confronting Samuel Miller, the MRS "patient zero" who was responsible for the Carmichael Massacre, can Victor learn the truth. To do that, Samuel must first be weaned off Personil, the drug that keeps his MRS symptoms in check. Can Victor learn the data egg's darkest secrets without unleashing a violent madman?

Meanwhile, a cult dedicated to the sanctity and purity of human life disrupts New Venice with protests and vandalism. When they take an interest in stopping BioScan from medicating MRS patients, including Samuel Miller, Victor finds himself with unlikely allies and divided loyalties.

As pressure builds for the nations of the American Union to pass new legislation to control Broken Mirrors, Victor must become an effective advocate for people with MRS or risk being institutionalized along with them.

A fast-paced sequel to *Broken Mirror*, *Tortured Echoes* continues the sci-fi detective saga of Resonant Earth. In this installment, fans of *Broken Mirror* will finally get answers to their questions: Why was Jefferson Eastmore killed? How did it happen? Who was responsible?

Revisit the world of self-driving cars, stunsticks, brainhackers, and herbalism with Victor, Elena, Ozie, Tosh, and Karine, and several new figures that might help Victor chart a new course for his future, or condemn him to madness.

## **Quick Facts**

- *Tortured Echoes* is Cody Sisco's second novel and the second installment of the "Resonant Earth Series" after *Broken Mirror*.
- Review copies of *Tortured Echoes* are available upon request through NetGalley.
- A short story prequel to the series, titled *Believe and Live*, was released in July 2016 and tells the story of what happened the day of the Carmichael Massacre.
- Sisco's cousin struggled with schizophrenia for years and died tragically while institutionalized. Several of his friends from childhood developed personality disorders in their teens or became addicted to drugs. In addition, Sisco struggled with depression in his late teens and early 20s. He wanted to depict those struggles through his writing.
- Sisco lives in Los Angeles with his husband Jay Fennelly.

## **About the Author**

Cody Sisco is the author of speculative fiction that straddles the divide between plausible and extraordinary. *Tortured Echoes* is his second novel and continues the series that began in *Broken Mirror*, which focuses on Victor Eastmore's journeys on Resonant Earth and beyond. An avid reader of Clive Barker, Haruki Murakami, and Kim Stanley Robinson, Sisco strives to create worlds that sit in the "uncanny valley"—discomfortingly odd yet familiar, where morality is not clear-cut, technology bestows blessings and curses, and outsiders struggle to find their niche. Sisco is a co-organizer of Northeast Los Angeles Writers, a writing workshop and critique group. He lives in Los Angeles.

## **Links**

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