

BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF *THE EMPTY CHAIR*

# JEFFERY DEAVER

# THE BLUE NOWHERE

A NOVEL

**JEFFERY DEAVER**

**THE BLUE  
NOWHERE**

Simon & Schuster

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This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents either are products of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events or locales or persons, living or dead, is entirely coincidental.

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BY THE AUTHOR OF

Speaking in Tongues

The Empty Chair

The Devil's Teardrop

The Coffin Dancer

The Bone Collector

A Maiden's Grave

Praying for Sleep

The Lesson of Her Death

Mistress of Justice

Hard News

Death of a Blue Movie Star

Manhattan Is My Beat

Bloody River Blues

Shallow Graves

*When I say that the brain is a machine,  
it is meant not as an insult to the mind but  
as an acknowledgment of the potential of  
a machine. I do not believe that a human  
mind is less than what we imagine it to be,  
but rather that a machine can be much,  
much more.*

—W. Daniel Hillis,  
*The Pattern on the Stone*





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## GLOSSARY

**Bot** (from robot): A software program that, operating on its own, assists users or other programs. Also referred to as an agent.

**Bug**: An error in software that prevents or interferes with the operation of the program.

**CCU**: The Computer Crimes Unit of the California State Police.

**Chip-jock**: A computer industry worker who specializes in hardware development or sales.

**Civilians**: Those individuals not involved in the computer industry.

**Code**: Software.

**Code cruncher**: An unimaginative software programmer who performs simple or mundane programming tasks.

**Codeslinger**: A talented software programmer whose work is considered innovative. Also referred to as a samurai.

**Crack**: To illicitly break into a computer, usually to steal or destroy data or prevent others from using the system.

**Demon** (or daemon): An unobtrusive, often hidden, software program that isn't specifically activated by a user command but that operates autonomously. It usually becomes active when certain conditions within the computer or network where it resides occur.

**Firewall**: A computer security system that prevents unwanted data from entering the computer it's intended to guard.

**Freeware**: Software made available by its developers at no charge.

**Guru**: A brilliant computer expert, a *wizard*.

**Hack**: Originally this word meant to quickly write a software program for a limited purpose though it evolved to mean the study and writ-

ing of innovative software programs. Increasingly the term is used by *civilians* to mean breaking into computer systems for malicious purposes—a practice more properly referred to as *cracking*. The word is also used as a noun to mean a clever piece of programming.

ICQ (I seek you): A subnetwork of the Internet similar to the *IRC* but devoted to private conversations. Similar to instant messaging.

IRC (Internet Relay Chat): A popular subnetwork of the Internet, in which a number of participants can have real-time conversations in online chat rooms devoted to specific interests.

.jpg (or .jpeg, for joint photographers experts group): A format for digitizing, compressing and storing pictures on computers. Pictures in such formats are designated by the extension .jpg after the file name.

Kludge: A quickly written, often improvised, software program that serves a particular purpose, usually intended to fix a *bug* or remedy some other setback in computer operations.

Machine: A computer.

MUD (multiuser domain, multiuser dimension or multiuser dungeons): A subnetwork related to the *IRC* in which participants play real-time games or engage in simulated activities.

MUDhead: One who participates in MUDs.

Packet: A small string of digitized data. All information transmitted over the Internet—e-mail, text, music, pictures, graphics, sounds—is broken down into packets, which are then reassembled at the recipient's end into usable form.

Packet-Sniffer: A program loaded on a computer *router*, *server* or individual computer to divert *packets* to a third party's computer, usually for the purpose of illicitly reading a user's messages or learning passcodes and other information.

Phishing: Searching the Internet for information about someone.

Phreak: To break into telephone systems primarily for the purpose of placing free calls, eavesdropping or disrupting service. The word is also used to describe one who engages in this practice.

**Root:** In the Unix operating system the word refers to the *sysadmin* or other individual in charge of a computer or network. It can also describe that control itself, as in “seizing root,” which means taking over a computer or network.

**Router:** A computer that directs *packets* through the Internet to their desired destination.

**Script:** Software.

**Server:** A large, fast computer on a network—such as the Internet—on which are stored data, Web sites and files, which users can access.

**Shareware:** Software made available by its developers at a nominal charge or for limited uses.

**Source Code:** The form in which a programmer writes software, using letters, numbers and typographic symbols in one of a number of programming languages. The source code is then converted into machine code, which is what actually runs on the computer. The source code is usually kept secret and is highly guarded by its developer or owner.

**Sysadmin (for systems administrator):** The individual in charge of the computer operation and/or network for an organization.

**Unix:** A sophisticated computer operating system, like Windows. It is the operating system most computers on the Internet use.

**Warez:** Illegally copied commercial software.

**.wav (for waveform):** A format for digitizing and storing sounds on computers. Sounds in such format are designated by the extension .wav after the file name.

**Wizard:** A brilliant computer expert, a *guru*.



