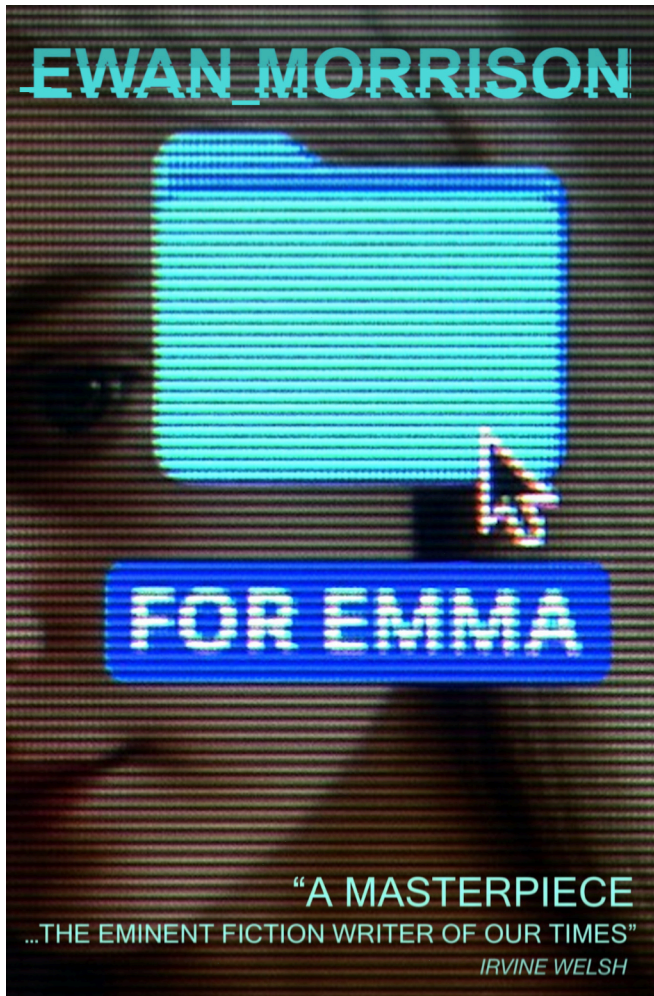


# 25th March 2025

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New Technogothic Thriller



Fiction / Literary / Dystopian

FOR EMMA

By Ewan Morrison

Leamington Books

ISBN 9781914090950

March 25<sup>th</sup> 2025

£19.99

B-FORMAT HARDBACK with DUST JACKET  
216 x 131 MM / 410 pages

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## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ewan Morrison is an award-winning novelist, scriptwriter, and essayist. His fiction focuses on the modern family, cults, idealism, and extremism. He has won the Saltire Society Literary Prize, the Scottish Book of the Year (SMIT) Fiction Prize, and the Glenfiddich Spirit of Scotland Award for Writer of the Year. His film **American Blackout** reached 45 million viewers, while his novel **Nina X** is being adapted into a feature film. Morrison's work has been nominated for BAFTAs and other international awards. Ewan's 2021 thriller **How to Survive Everything** is being adapted as a TV series by the production company who made *Nine Perfect Strangers* and *The Lost Flowers of Alice Hart*.

## ABOUT FOR EMMA

A novel that asks what are the human costs of technological accelerationism?

**For Emma** is the story of a young genius Silicon Valley scientist who dies in a secret AI brain chip experiment. Her voice haunts her father and helps him plan the revenge killing of the Big Tech CEO whose human-machine interface process destroyed her.

It's a ghost-in-the machine tale of bereavement and of a unique and conflicted love between a daughter and her father. **For Emma** delves deep into the moral conflicts of new human-computer technologies and asks whether humanity can survive our accelerating drive towards the future that promises us digital immortality.

*"A masterpiece... For Emma is an extraordinary novel; a treatise of love and loss, the terror of the modern world and the sprung, high-tech trap humanity has set for itself. This would be more than enough: awe-inspiringly, it's also a page-turning thriller, and it confirms its author as the eminent fiction writer of our times."*

Irvine Welsh

*"Absolutely wonderful...riveting, sad, mad and terrifying."*

Terry Gilliam

*"For Emma is as disturbing as it is convincing, a tale of love and guilt and grief, and an apt tract for our chaotic times."*

John Banville

*"A devastatingly accomplished and cinema-literate nightmare of culture-induced and morally bereft psychotic breakdown: the state in which we are all now registered, observed and disenfranchised."*

Iain Sinclair – writer, filmmaker

*"Heartbreaking and harrowing, this is a suspenseful journey into a family's tortured past and its nightmarish present."*

Atom Egoyan – Director – *The Sweet Hereafter*



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## Endorsements for FOR EMMA

"A masterpiece....*For Emma* is an extraordinary novel; a treatise of love and loss, the terror of the modern world and the sprung, high-tech trap humanity has set for itself. This would be more than enough: awe inspiring, it's also a page-turning thriller, and it confirms its author as the eminent fiction writer of our times."

Irvine Welsh

"Absolutely wonderful...riveting, sad, mad and terrifying."

Terry Gilliam

"For Emma is as disturbing as it is convincing, a tale of love and guilt and grief, and an apt tract for our chaotic times."

John Banville

"Ewan Morrison's harrowing and beautiful new novel, *For Emma*, is an early warning system for the future. In that way, a worthy successor to *Easy Travel to Other Planets*, *Neuromancer*, and, of course, *Brave New World*."

David Shields – Reality Hunger

"This book scared me like no horror story ever has, because its monster is right in front of us, right now, eating us slowly while we cheer."

Isaac Marion. Author *Warm Bodies*.

"*For Emma* is a brilliant book that you will devour. Its compelling exploration of love, loss, and the haunting power of technology and morality makes it a must-read, delving into the highly relevant and intriguing intersection of humanity and advanced AI."

Bruna Papandrea - Producer - *Gone Girl*, *Big Little Lies*

"Harrowing, tragic and moving."

Ian Rankin

"Josh Cartwright, the beguiling protagonist of *FOR EMMA*, is reminiscent, with all his paranoia and eccentricities, of the tortured heroes of Philip K. Dick. But this tale should not be categorized as *speculative*. Rather, this brilliant and frightening novel is more like science *fact* than science *fiction*. So some day soon when we're all backing up our brains and things get even crazier in our mad world, we'll remember that Ewan Morrison tried to warn us."

Jonathan Ames, author of *A Man Named Doll*

"A devastatingly accomplished and cinema-literate nightmare of culture-induced and morally bereft psychotic breakdown: the state in which we are all now registered, observed and disenfranchised. The poetry of paranoia, here, is so compelling, that we are forced to conclude that the very act of tale-telling, authorship, is being dictated by a terrifying otherness. Now read on. Please."

Iain Sinclair – writer, filmmaker

"*For Emma* is an astonishing, bold novel... heart-rending, but also complex, visceral and angry... unlike anything I have read before – a sympathetic, yet abject account of violence. Morrison's eyes are on the horizon. This is the novel for our times, a mordant, coruscating yet exhilarating account of where we will be, sooner than we think."

Nicholas Blincoe

"Heartbreaking and harrowing, this is a suspenseful journey into a family's tortured past and its nightmarish present. Ewan Morrison's attention to the details of parental love and responsibility make this an unforgettable book."

Atom Egoyan – Director – *The Sweet Hereafter*

"A beautiful, intense, challenging, scary and very, very timely book."

J.T Leroy/Laura Albert

"Thrilling, unsettling, and fundamentally humane, *For Emma* is an explosively timely novel. A shifting metafiction of unreliable narration that knowingly calls to mind the gothic horror of Stevenson and Hogg, while relentlessly fixated on the anxieties of our social age. A disturbing and unflinching glimpse into disillusionment and conspiracy and a techno-dystopian warning about the terrors less of the future, than of the now."

Kieran Hurley – Playwright

"Hold onto your seats for a cracking good ending, which I did not see coming, yet which I felt I should have seen coming – the best kind."

Lionel Shriver

"As pacy and compelling as a thriller, *For Emma* is also a skillful exploration of that area where our genuine fears about the global reach of tech giants meet a natural tendency to paranoia. How worried should we be about the rapid advances in artificial intelligence currently underway? Emma's story feels compelling, moving and terrifyingly plausible."

Miranda France, author and editor

"Just as Ewan Morrison was ahead of the field with pandemic fiction and novels about ideological capture, so he is the pioneer of AI literature in Scotland. Terrifying, engrossing, masterful. The most inventive and original writer we have."

Alex Linklater – Journalist

"An incisive novel for our times, written with wit and sensitivity, it tackles huge issues about the future of humanity with great heart."

Doug Johnstone – Author and Critic

"*For Emma* is a haunting work, resonating and echoing for a long time after reading. Although concerned with AI, it is a human book, both grief soaked and love filled. In *For Emma*, Morrison has created a true masterpiece, one that endures as testament to his concern for our endangered humanity."

Ali Millar. Author - *The Last Days*

"A grieving father becomes an avenging angel. A great novel which captures and questions our times. I loved this cinematic and compassionate book."

Mark Cousins – filmmaker

"If there is a braver novelist in Scotland than Ewan Morrison I don't know who it is. The scenario Morrison depicts in his latest work is terrifyingly possible, perhaps just around the corner, or even already here. He exposes the tension between our desire for the possible benefits of AI and our instinctive resistance to its dehumanising effects. *For Emma* is a fast-paced techno-thriller, but it's also a love story about the despair that failed love brings. And maybe, too, it's a warning, that in the name of progress we may be powering up the instruments of our own destruction as a species."

James Robertson

"A stunning book. Deeply touching. A beautifully crafted page-turner. I love how we're sucked into a dark eloquent vortex, part gothic/sci-fi/ and detective novel, asking essential questions about AI, but also what it means to love and to stay alive. It has stayed with me deeply, particularly those passages about the father and daughter, the intimacy of grief. As relevant as *Frankenstein*."

Susanna Crossman. Author - *Home is Where We Start*

"A brilliant, breath-taking book. *For Emma* is at once a gripping techno-thriller, a chillingly plausible near-future nightmare, and a moving meditation on loss and grief. Morrison expertly weaves unreliable first person narratives together with scenes of nail-biting tension, sudden violence, dream-like paranoid diatribes, and redacted horrors in blacked out text. Without flinching, he never lets go of the humanity we stand to lose as technology accelerates. Reading *For Emma* is a terrifying glimpse into a dystopia so close, we can't avoid it."

Bram E. Gieben - *Strange Exiles Podcast*

"*For Emma* is a gripping novel of a near future that is almost upon us, and that this dire warning seeks to prevent. Here's hoping."

Ken MacLeod – Award winning sci-fi writer

"Ewan Morrison is a mesmerising writer and *For Emma* is (for me) his best book yet. It's a stark, vivid warning of darker times ahead; a prescient novel about the things that make us human - empathy, memory, longing, regret, guilt - slipping through our fingers, eradicated by morally malignant technologies. A novel with a universal truth: only love can break your heart. My determination to improve as a writer is its lasting gift to me."

David F. Ross

A worryingly convincing vision of our imminent present. Ewan Morrison is our Michel Houellebecq."

Prof. Gavin Bowd. Translator of Houellebecq

"Haunting, eerie, and kinetic, *For Emma* is equal parts sci-fi, dystopia, family tragedy and portrait of an unravelling mind."

Mary Harrington



@MrEwanMorrison