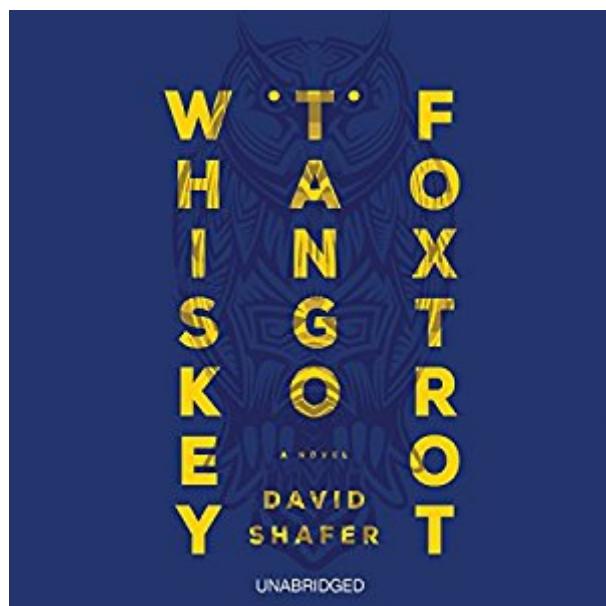


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# Whiskey Tango Foxtrot



## Synopsis

Three young adults grapple with the usual thirty-something problems - boredom, authenticity, an omnipotent online oligarchy - in David Shafer's darkly comic debut novel. The Committee, an international cabal of industrialists and media barons, is on the verge of privatizing all information. Dear Diary, an idealistic online Underground, stands in the way of that takeover, using radical politics, classic spycraft, and technology that makes Big Data look like dial-up. Into this secret battle stumbles an unlikely trio: Leila Majnoun, a disillusioned non-profit worker; Leo Crane, an unhinged trustafarian; and Mark Deveraux, a phony self-betterment guru who works for the Committee. Leo and Mark were best friends in college, but early adulthood has set them on diverging paths. Growing increasingly disdainful of Mark's platitudes, Leo publishes a withering takedown of his ideas online. But the Committee is reading - and erasing - Leo's words. On the other side of the world, Leila's discoveries about the Committee's far-reaching ambitions threaten to ruin those who are closest to her. In the spirit of William Gibson and Chuck Palahniuk, Whiskey Tango Foxtrot is both a suspenseful global thriller and an emotionally truthful novel about the struggle to change the world in- and outside your head.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 15 hours and 11 minutes

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Version: Unabridged

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Audible.com Release Date: August 5, 2014

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

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## Customer Reviews

This is a well written, carefully crafted story set in the very near future. It deals with fascinating and important issues of technology and society that highlight some hard decisions that we homo not-so-sapiens will have to make if we are going to preserve anything like privacy and freedom. I

bought it based on a glowing review in the New York Times, and for most of the book I wasn't disappointed. The writing was really quite good, and the story generally moved quickly enough to hold my interest. However, the book does have its problems. The story seemed a bit plodding and overwrought in places, and at times it felt like the author was milking the plot. I also found that three of the four main characters simply weren't very sympathetic. Two were falling-down drunks, and they were well captured, but wading through their drunken and/or stoned episodes got to be a bit much after a couple hundred pages. A third character -- a spy who worked for the US Postal Service (seriously) -- was so poorly developed that he just felt like a plot mechanism to bind the others together. The true protagonist of the book is a woman of courage and integrity that I enjoyed spending time with. Unfortunately, the story bounced around among the four characters, with each chapter switching to another point of view and a different story arc. It's a standard "thriller" trick (think Tom Clancy) that must work for many readers, but I have always found it contrived and halting. Just about the time I got engaged in the narrative, I had to switch to another character with a separate story from four chapters back that I'd lost interest in. Most of the book is written this way, and it got tiresome pretty quickly. But the real problem with this book is that it has no ending.

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