

Solarversia: The Year Long Game

By Toby Downton

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It's the 29th February 2020 and Nova Negrahnu cannot wait to start playing Solarversia, a year-long game based in a virtual world that's modelled on the real world solar system. Given three lives, three vehicles, and told to master the *Science of Solarversia* to stand a chance of winning, players compete against 100 million people for the **£10m grand prize**, and a place in the history books.

Solarversia starts three months before Nova's A-levels, the life-changing exams that could see her win a place at Nottingham, the university that Charlie attends, the second-year student she falls for on an open-day visit. As she strains to balance her addiction to the game with her mounting schoolwork, Nova's world is unexpectedly turned upside down when the Holy Order, a mysterious cult-like organisation sets its sights on the game and Spiralwerks, its creator.

Told from three different perspectives - Nova the gamer, Artica Kronkite, the CEO of Spiralwerks, and Casey Brown, a newly-initiated member of the Holy Order - **Solarversia is a game that author Toby Downton hopes to make for real, to launch in 2020, so that people can actually play it.**

From the initial press release:
The world of **virtual reality** is about to fundamentally reshape the way in which we live, work and play. The Oculus Rift — the much-lauded and potentially transformational VR headset, which broke crowdfunding records in 2012, and was recently acquired by Facebook for $2 billion — is scheduled to launch in early 2016. While its most obvious impact will hit the world's 700 million plus gamers, Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg believes the potential VR impact to be far more profound: "Imagine enjoying a court side seat at a game, studying in a classroom of students and teachers all over the world or consulting with a doctor face-to-face – just by putting on goggles in your home."

The relatively new genre of litRPG, or virtual reality inspired science fiction centred around the gaming industry, is booming, with Ernest Cline's bestseller Ready Player One already in production for a major movie adaptation with Spielberg directing. Downton is emerging as a driving force in the VR revolution. His novel Solaversia is just the first step in his thrillingly ambitious multi-platform story-telling experience that will explore the relationships

between artificial intelligence, technology and the human spirit. Downton has incorporated his tech-company – Spiralwerks – in the real world, developing Solarversia as a commercially available game, ready to storm the games market in 2020. Accompanying the publication of Solarversia is the Golden Ticket promotion, which will enable readers to win one of a hundred specially reserved places within the Player's Grid, through a series of innovative competitions.

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Solarversia: The Year Long Game By Toby Downton Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Review

"Downton has clearly played a game or two or ten in his life, as **a lot of the game play in Solarversia feels real, as if it came from an actual video game**. His description of action scenes and completing game puzzles and obstacles is exciting and keeps the reader hooked and interested."
Alex C. Telander, Bookbanter

"**Solarversia really is quite different to Ready Player One, but I think RPO fans will love it**. I had a hard time putting it down."
Neil Glaser, via Twitter

"Just finished Solarversia. Fun read! **Check it out VR people**."
Brian Hart, Silicon Valley Contributor, Road to VR, Works at Jaunt VR

"Enjoying Solarversia, a game played in Virtual Reality by 100m people in the year 2020."
Nicole Alexander, **VP Innovation at Nielsen**. Professor Analytics at NY University

"Thoroughly enjoying Toby Downton's Solarversia, **a compelling vision for VR game culture**."
Trevor F. Smith, author of the Beam science fiction stories

"Nine chapters into Solarversia and **loving it from the scientist and avid gamer POV**."
Leigh (aka Trinity), Physicist pretending to be an engineer, NASA Tweetup alumnus

"Just bought Solarversia, looks amazing!"
Jen Foehner Wells, **bestselling author** of Fluency, a space opera

"So much variety in Solarversia. **Ready Player One meets Charlie Brooker's Black Mirror**. A visceral edge to innocent entertainment."
Eric Gallagher, Gamer, Loves reading good fantasy

"Cannot thank Toby Downton enough for Solarversia. Haven't read a book this engaging since Laura Lam's Pantomime. **I want this game now**."
Jake Basford, Independent PR/Social Media Consultant and Geek Editor for Vada Magazine

From the Back Cover

"This fantastic book brings the future of **Virtual Reality** to life, don't miss it."

Steve Dann - Founder & CEO Amplified Robot

"Solaversia deals with all the perils and wonders of games and connecting technologies, while embedded in a great adventure I wish I could be part of, but also kind of fear at the same time. Get trademarking those inventions Toby."

Betty Adamou - Founder & CEO of Research Through Gaming

About the Author
In 2010, after ten years of searching for meaning in his life, Toby Downton had a vision for a game that everyone could play in a virtual world. Captivated by what he saw, he proceeded to devote a large amount of his spare time to investigating how to make the vision a reality. At the end of 2011 he left his job at the London Stock Exchange in order to commit to learning about technology and the world of tech startups. Soon after he co-founded Matter, a small digital innovation consultancy with two friends, and worked both as a business analyst, and in business development for the company up until March of 2014, when the Facebook purchase of Oculus Rift inspired him to write the book that showed the game and company he had envisioned.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Maurice Henkel:

The particular book Solarversia: The Year Long Game will bring that you the new experience of reading the book. The author style to spell out the idea is very unique. Should you try to find new book to learn, this book very suitable to you. The book Solarversia: The Year Long Game is much recommended to you to learn. You can also get the e-book through the official web site, so you can more readily to read the book.

Juana Rummel:

Reading can called brain hangout, why? Because if you find yourself reading a book particularly book entitled Solarversia: The Year Long Game your thoughts will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in most aspect that maybe not known for but surely will become your mind friends. Imaging just about every word written in a book then become one web form conclusion and explanation which maybe you never get previous to. The Solarversia: The Year Long Game giving you an additional experience more than blown away your head but also giving you useful info for your better life in this particular era. So now let us explain to you the relaxing pattern is your body and mind will probably be pleased when you are finished reading it, like winning a game. Do you want to try this extraordinary investing spare time activity?

Debbie Yarborough:

Reading a book to become new life style in this year; every people loves to go through a book. When you study a book you can get a lots of benefit. When you read guides, you can improve your knowledge, since book has a lot of information into it. The information that you will get depend on what forms of book that you have read. If you need to get information about your study, you can read education books, but if you want to entertain yourself you can read a fiction books, these kinds of us novel, comics, as well as soon. The Solarversia: The Year Long Game provide you with new experience in studying a book.

Harold Young:

That guide can make you to feel relax. This particular book Solarversia: The Year Long Game was multi-colored and of course has pictures around. As we know that book Solarversia: The Year Long Game has many kinds or category. Start from kids until teens. For example Naruto or Detective Conan you can read and believe that you are the character on there. Therefore , not at all of book are usually make you bored, any it can make you feel happy, fun and relax. Try to choose the best book to suit your needs and try to like reading this.

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