

Walkaway by Cory Doctorow

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Cory Doctorow's novel *Walkaway* is for this hardly ever reader of novels a stretch. If it weren't for the in-depth interview on [Book TV](#) I would never have been tempted to read it. The first chapter felt like reading something in a foreign language in a yet to be imagined space/time for this 81 year old great grandmother.

For over a year now I have been wearing one of our sons diaper pins or other safety pins on my clothes to remind myself that I cannot just drift off from the mess our generation has helped to create comforted by the thought that I will be 'gone' when the worst happens. I remind myself of all those who have to live with my choices in the years to come and then own my choices in a way that is painful at times. It is my way of walking *toward* the future that I will never see.

The growing recognition that the ways we currently use to find meaning are not working like we want them to. Articles on the demise of the [nation state](#) work with these same questions. Doctorow weaves in all the issues confronting us personally and corporately into a si-fi novel. He attempts to explore all the ways that those choosing to 'walkaway' use to create a reality that is worth living for. The age old quest for eternal life runs in the background in all their efforts. He creatively engages the human (meat stage) and post human stages. This was made possible by computer backups of people with the post human stage of emotions vs non emotions, which awaited the day these backups could be uploaded to a meat version again.

I will be ruminating a long time on this book. It was a slog for someone not used to novels yet alone si-fi ones, but it encourages me to see that others are looking for viable ways to move into the future.

