Power Within

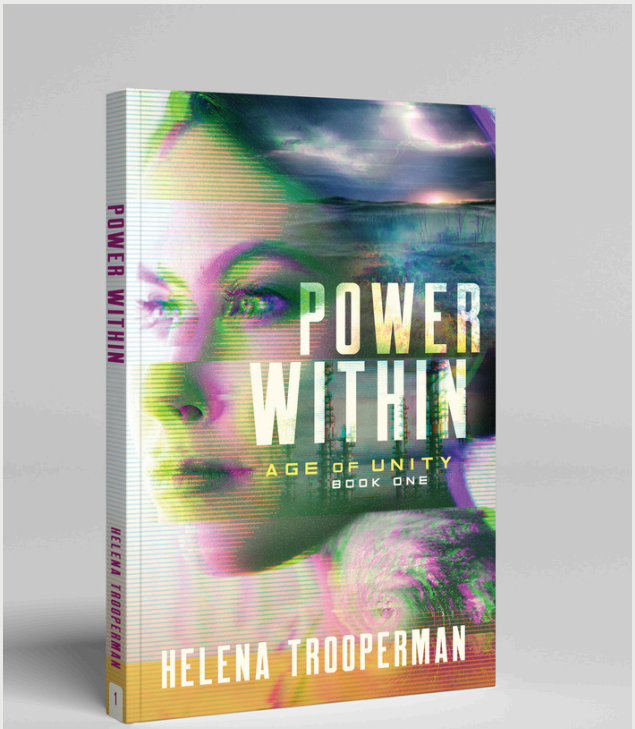
If you like deeply drawn characters, intense standoffs, and worldwide power plays, then you'll enjoy this gripping sci-fi technothriller series.

SHE'S A TECH GENIUS. But unless she can invent a daring rescue, her soulmate will die.

Toronto, 2032 in a subtly alternate reality. Innovator Athena Cartwright wants to change the world with her self-charging coms device. But her focus shifts when her life-partner and oil company CEO leaves on an emergency trip to a stricken rig off the African coast. And when she learns the worst has happened, she takes matters into her own hands to save him.

With everyone from the catastrophe presumed dead, Athena is furious the authorities refuse to take further action. But her partner carries one of her prototypes... and he's just called. Though bringing him back alive will pit her against corrupt governments, greedy conspirators, and deadly high-seas pirates.

Can Athena's daring strategy outwit global foes who want him dead?



August 2026

The inspiration for Athena's always on NETcell...

It was typical in Helena's house, to find no recharge cable, or it was busted at that critical moment, thanks to her teens. "My mobile's dead, sorry," was a frequent excuse.

Feel free to reach out to me with any other questions you have using the contact details below.

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RELEASE...
Wed 19th August 2026

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Power Within Book Bingo Card

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Quick Facts

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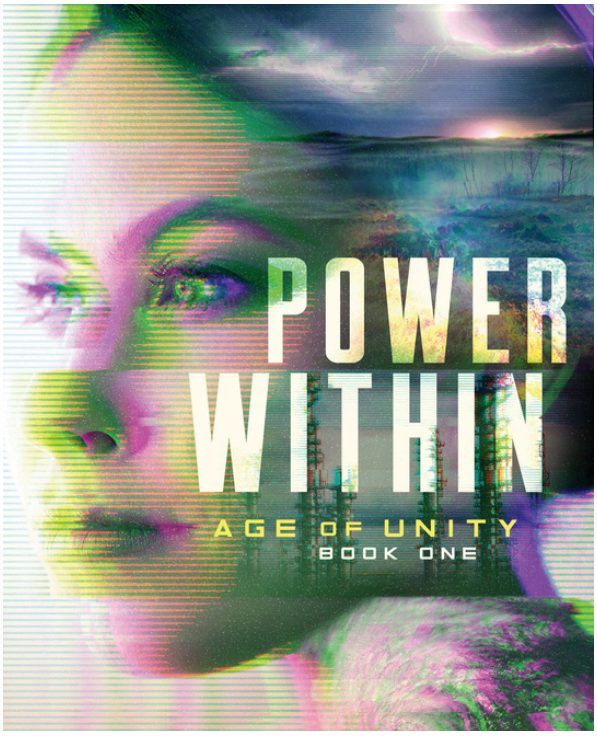
Excerpt



A glint caught her eye from the tech Erikson threatened her with. Its point aimed under her chin ready to impale her or shoot her with it. She struggled to keep it from touching her. What is it?

"No!" Jensen yelled, pushing through the crush into the clearing.

Then Landvik heard him groan. Erikson's men believed in rough treatment. They dragged him closer, his yells to be let go louder.

> **Oden, keep him safe. He will always be my straight arrow.**
>
> Ulrika Landvik, serf & pirate.

Erikson held her close; only the sun's reflection made the weapon, not quite touching her throat, noticeable to the crew.

"Don't move," Jensen yelled at her, his voice strained.

"Know what this is?" he said in her ear like a lover.

The soft hum of the device, the warm vibration on her skin. It's charging whatever it is.

"A couple more seconds," he said, smirking. "Just one pulse. You won't feel a thing when it happens." He angled the weapon under her chin, ready to hit the trigger—its trajectory toward her brain. "Instant aneurysm. A secret death of natural causes," he whispered. "Loan Man can get anything."

PRESENT DAY

The blade's sharp point hovered at the soft part of her neck. Athena Cartwright raised her chin.

The frozen wall behind blocked her exit. The two hovering drones pinned her in place. If they can threaten, can they kill?

The cold penetrated her core and her face stung. Her scarf had fallen at her feet on the sidewalk when the junkers had sprung their attack. Christopher Columbus! How'd I get in this mess?

The temperature with lake effect had to be around minus thirty-two Celsius. That meant covering skin and keeping on the move. Got to get away. I need an opening.

"Answer our questions and no harm will come to you," the floating he-drone said, inching closer.

Standing on tip toes, she raised her chin to full height, making it impossible to attract the attention of any Torontonian passer by.

"Are you Athena Cartwright?" The she-drone sang. How the hell did their ethics chip get turned off? A chink of light hit the blade pointed at her neck. A nod, not an alternative. Even too large a breath would draw first blood. Fear raised an extensive wall for her voice to vault. She forced her words over it. "Yes?"

The she-drone dropped pincers from beneath its flying saucer-like body.

"A complaint has been lodged," the higher pitched drone said. It opened and closed its pincer. A behaviour clearly programmed in, to intimidate. "You are not to return. Is that clear?"

"Yes."

"Give me your NETcell," the she-drone sang. The other kept the blade under her chin. A small Better Telecoms insignia beneath its arm confirmed who had sent them.

> **They said they didn't want my chip and new power source. Ridiculed me.**
>
> Athena Cartwright, mother & inventor.

> **“Every new novel released will have an enticing, totally original, Tech Array short story bonus.**
>
> **A downloadable thank you for an early bird purchase.”**

Rachel A. Rosen (Cascade)

ALWAYS ON TECH ARRAY [AOU,01,01]

“… ‘inventor figures out a thing, consequences ensue’… This novella gives that premise a very modern, compelling twist… It’s a very cool little book that you should be warned ends on a bit of a cliffhanger.”

Discovery (Reedsy)

THRESHOLD TECH ARRAY [AOU,02,03]

5 star “Must read. …gripping and inspiring …exploring humanity’s quest for multi-planetary life …scientific concepts and technical terms that add authenticity to the story without overwhelming the reader. This impressive worldbuilding will ensure that readers are fully invested in Rai’s quest.”

Biography

PLANET: Helena is a human of Earth, an organic in love with the machine. The future starts now, here. She’s fascinated with humanity’s quest to become multiplanetary and beyond. Her only regret is, she probably won’t live to see it. However, she can live it through story.

> **If Trooperman were a tree, this is how she’d be described…**

ROOTS: British by birth. Born in Dorset and grew to adulthood in Hampshire. She also lived on the Wirral for several years before picking up her roots and moving with her family to Ontario, Canada in 2006. A little town called Dundas. The earth that keeps her rooted and nourished is her five grown children and her husband. Where they go, she goes. They are home.

Read more … https://helenatrooperman.ca/about/

> **Ordinary characters that find their extraordinary and learn to use it.**

Press Release

Age of Unity Series Book One
POWER WITHIN
Official book release… 19st August 2026.

Power Within is a mother's journey to grow her self-belief that she has the power to influence bigger situations than she could possibly imagine. When her new partner is in peril she starts off feeling helpless until he makes contact, and a spark of hope is kindled. The task ahead is still huge. She's going to design a solution for a situation half the world away, where collaboration is her only tool. Every person she brings into her team, she has to trust.

Set in Underbury, where the Cartwright family home backs onto the Bruce Trail, Athena waits for news feeling drawn to James' home, in the hope of greater inspiration. Will the solution she's designed be enough to bring James home safely?

> **What if I can't save them? She paced back and forth, uncomfortable in her own skin. I'll be relentless. The worst case, they'll all think I'm a pain in the arse. So what!**
>
> Athena Cartwright, mother & inventor.

If you like stories that features sweet family that never have problems, this is not the novel for you. Athena is environmentally driven and James is nicknamed, Mr. Oil by her teenage daughter, who is a young activist with four other siblings. A new family, split in their beliefs and actions, yet who never give up trying to bridge that divide to be together.

The Age of Unity novels are epic sized stories for readers who want full immersion. Enjoyable to anyone who lives and dies by their NETcell (mobile) and prefers character driven stories. Readers of sci-fi and technothrillers who enjoy near future themes that focus on family, friendships, and teamwork, will find this a globe trotting, multi-cast, hopeful read.

Interview Questions

Why did you choose to set your book in the near future?

The future does not have to be dystopian even if that's where we appear to be heading. The Age of Unity and Tech Array series' offer more than entertainment, they offer optimisim through Athena's courage and persistance. She collaborates as necessary, working toward goals, so big, the how is not clear. Yet, she never gives up and we must not either.

How is a story about a mobile phone sci-fi?

A communication device is a technology we all use. With Athena's new Always-on chip it's relatable and yet, futuristic. We have an intelligent, pragmatic woman who has attacked her pet peeve in Always On, finding a new power source that her chip taps into. Now, she takes her NETcell to the next level, while testing her chip in other devices.

Is this a climate disaster story?

No, the story is about Athena and James who are on opposite sides of the climate debate. It's about how they look past differences to be together and build a future on a family level, (if they both survive.) That's where hope comes in. If two individuals so opposed can make it, then maybe, just maybe the world can.

Why write a story about oil?

Dallas, the soap opera was enjoyed by the multitudes worldwide. Then, being an oil baron was considered glamorous, not so much now. Times have changed and the industry has gone from being the good guys that hold up our economies to the evil guys that kill our planet. My aim is to stop that dialogue and move to a position of collaboration.

Does Athena make a difference to the climate?

That would be a spoiler! You have to read the book to find out. James' corporation certainly has the capability to really make change as all large corporations do. Watch out for book two, Change Within to see Athena's impact on climate grow.

Is the bonus launch story connected and how?

Yes. The bonus features Agent Marshall, a side character who makes his debut cameo appearance in Power Within, using new technology that gives him true anonymity. New Skin belongs to the Tech Array series of shorter standalone fiction. These focus on technology, whether as an invention or as an adventure with the technology. Insider secret: Agent Marshall has a much bigger role in book two.