

THE POWER  
OF  
PREPARATION

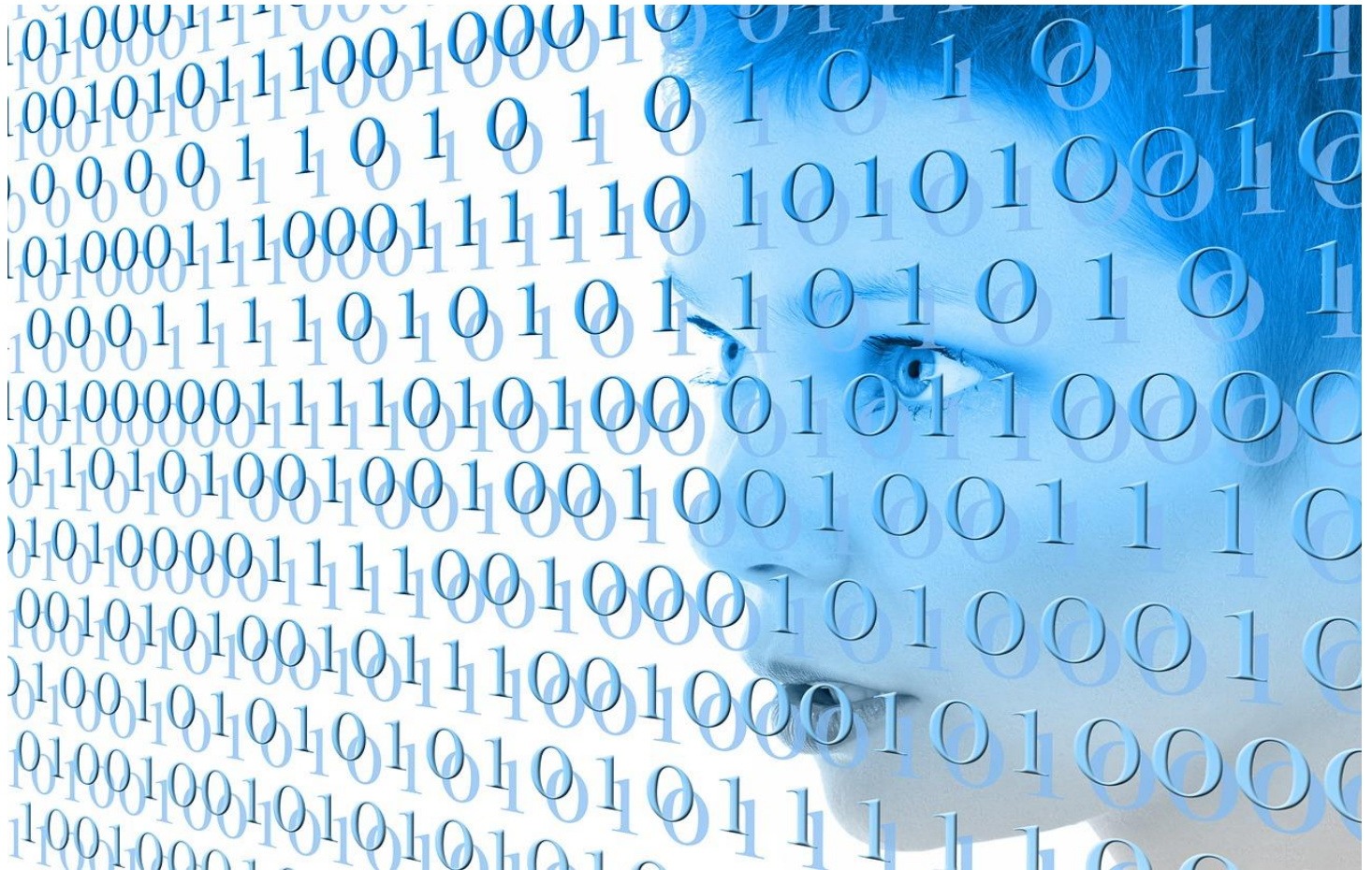
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10 THINGS  
TO DO  
BEFORE THE  
FUTURE  
ARRIVES

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CASE LANE





# 2016

In every direction the future approaches.

Cars move without drivers.

Your smartphone speaks to you.

Your job skills are eroding.

Your parents' lifestyle is a fading dream.

EDUCATION  
TRANSPORT  
HOUSING  
PRIVACY  
SURVEILLANCE  
LAW ENFORCEMENT  
FOOD  
AGING  
DEATH  
BEHAVIOR

Where do you want to be when your future life arrives on your doorstep? Still thinking for yourself and making your own decisions? Or reacting to the commands on your smartphone?

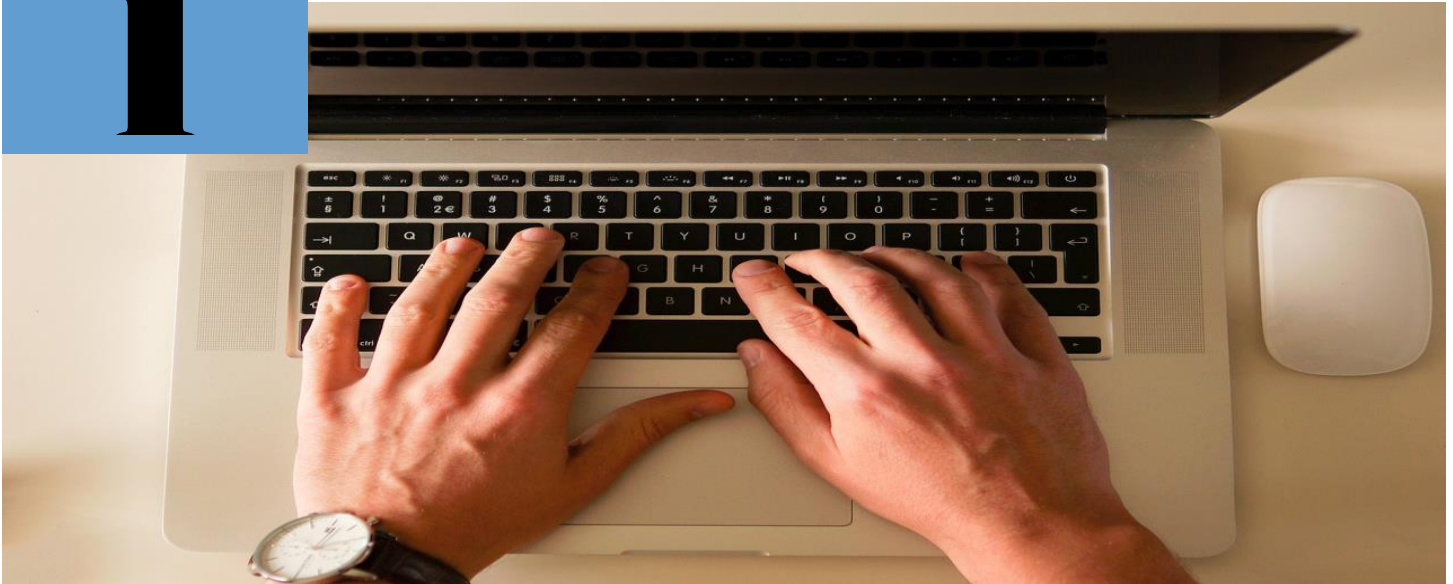
In this guide, future life writer Case Lane presents **10 tips** to help you stay ahead of the changes technology is enforcing on you. These tips could be the same ideas reaching the ears of your descendants as they navigate the innovations of the next century. Case is old enough to remember pay phones, modems and television dials, and young enough to navigate a Smartphone, the Internet and civilian drones. As a professional, she lived through Y2K, and worked through the transformation from physical to digital media. Now as a speculative science fiction writer, she takes you on a journey from your here and now, to a possible tomorrow.

What should you be doing to prepare for a future you are bound to see (because technology will help you live longer)?

Let's find out...

# 1

## EDUCATION



### LEARN A STEM SKILL

# 2016

#### EDUCATION

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What is a STEM skill? The first lesson to learn.

STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics

These are the fields where the jobs are, and not coincidentally, the training people receive before going to work in the industries now recreating our world. If you are afraid of these so-called "hard" subjects, it is probably time to change your attitude. You will not only need a STEM skill to find employment, but also to understand how your world is changing and how to adjust to the advances of technology.

Don't worry, you do not have to abandon your passion for literature and the arts or your dream of studying philosophy or history. But in preparation for the next century, you should probably consider doing both. In other words, if you are on your way to college, think dual degree. If you have already completed a first degree, plan on updating your learning. You can find dozens of programs online for training in STEM fields. Think of your STEM choice as a practical decision, one that will give you flexibility because you'll be employable.

You can start your STEM education at any time. Jump in whenever you have a free moment.

Still can't stand the idea? Well you have other options for the world of work - personal services. The personal skill trades like - carpenter, electrician, plumber, mechanic, hair stylist, masseuse, chef - are unlikely to be easily replaced by robots. If you don't mind using your hands, there is a job waiting for you, providing individual services to the technologists who will have the money to pay you.

*"The media had often reported, for those who had paid attention, that if an individual did not learn a STEM skill - science, technology, engineering or mathematics - then well-paid employment was likely an illusion. Only the low-wage, standardized jobs of the service industry would be available to the unskilled. Americans thought unemployment was high, but millions of openings went unfilled. By 2030, any child finishing high school or college graduation requirements without a STEM specialty was generally considered too apathetic to benefit from the freedom, and the earnings, enjoyed by pros."*

*- from The Motion Clue*

# 2

## TRANSPORT



### RESIST THE NEED FOR CONTROL

# 2016

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Vehicle drivers first began disappearing when advanced commuter rail service removed humans from the conductor's cabin. Soon no ground level transport will require human control. Driving as we know it - both the nerve-grinding stillness of rush hour and the exhilarating freedom of the open road - may come to an end.

We humans enjoy being in control. Some of us absolutely love to drive. A future of neither would be difficult for many to embrace. But driverless cars could be an expected necessity. In an era when fewer young adults are learning to drive, the need to do so will only continue to diminish, as transport becomes an automated flying device summoned by the selection of an icon.

So do you need to learn to drive or should you just acquaint yourself with your local public transit system or sign-up for a ride share app? If you plan to live in a city, best to quash the idea of driving yourself. Your car will be in control, receiving pre-programmed orders from your smartphone and limiting your ability to independently function.

For many people this realization will be a challenge. But for others, controlled cars will bring much-desired order. To prevent accidents, self-driving on city streets may become illegal. Self-drivers may even be considered social pariahs, like smokers. Why risk human error when the transports can manage without our unpredictable intervention? Your decision to drive yourself could be considered irrational behavior or the height of irresponsibility. So you may be forced to give up your desire to be behind the wheel, and accept a new reality of passive indifference while the vehicle does the driving for you.

*Without an awareness of his current location or intended destination, Santino patiently sat as the Rider continued to fly across the terrain, automatically adjusting its speed to the surroundings, the activity in the area, and the presence, or lack of, other vehicles. All transports had sensors for assessing the environment around its route. If no other movement was detected along the travel path, the transport could accelerate across the snow and ice like the wolves in pursuit of prey in the forest nearby.*

*- from The Motion Clue*

# 3

## HOUSING



### LIVE VERTICALLY

# 2016

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If you are planning on making a move from the suburbs, or have not yet bought your first house yet, time to consider going straight into a high rise.

During the 2008-2012 Great Recession, millions of people, especially children, watched in irreversible horror as the American Dream of home ownership crashed and faded from view. Those survivors may never buy a family home in the suburbs. And in an unintended consequence, their decision to give up the dream of a plot may serve to do what only government intervention could have managed, protect our diminishing arable land.

People are going back to the inner cities. No more personal cars, long commutes, water sucking grass-filled yards, or wide empty spaces. The skylines are being recreated with condos, lofts and apartments for high flyers and the homeless, who are resetting the agenda in urban America. The inner city is hip and happening again. The fear of crime and diversity that once drove millions away, now serves as an anchor for marketing the eclectic choices available in central urban space.

With government budgets squeezed, dense population centers provide economies of scale. Electricity, water, sanitation, and policing services provided to more people in smaller geographic areas can save millions of taxpayer dollars. Building on top of existing infrastructure protects unused land and repurposes crumbling spaces for new living.

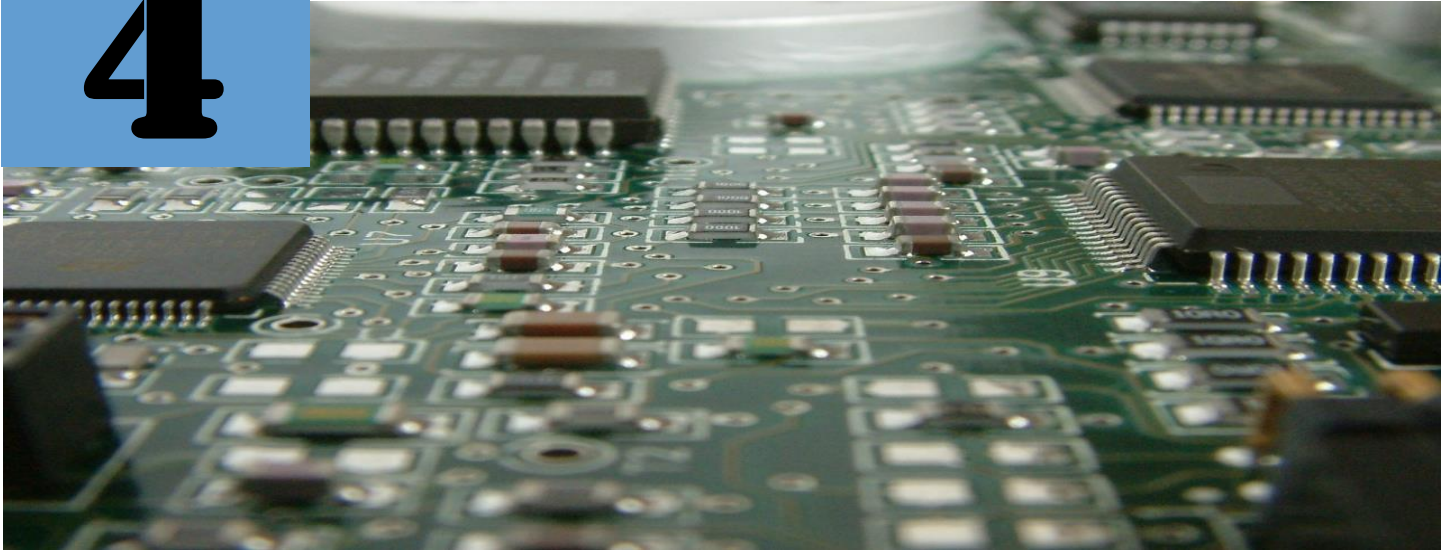
But with togetherness and redevelopment, so arise local tensions. Cities can be crowded, dirty, and dangerous. As more urban newcomers collide with the existing abandoned, city space will be a battleground. The dispersed who held the center for decades will demand an accounting for their losses as returnees from the suburbs use money to justify their re-settlement. Best stake your ground now, the rents are set to rise with the conflicts and that too will take its toll.

*For millions of city residents, it was economical for the individuals, and more efficient for the government, to settle in skyscraper towers providing all municipal services. Energy use was strictly monitored, waste efficiently treated, and water consistently recycled. In almost every urban area, the entire high-rise infrastructure was inter-locked like geometric bricks, and an individual could move from one end of a city to another without setting foot on outside ground.*

*- from The Motion Clue*

# 4

## PRIVACY



### TAKE A DAMAGE CONTROL CLASS

# 2016

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Do we really need to fear the loss of our privacy? Or like the word "friend," has the word "privacy" come to mean something much different than it used to? After all, those living a life online now know that when someone says so-and-so is a "friend" that may not necessarily mean the two have ever met in-person. Such vagaries and understandings are commonplace, could the same concept be applied to privacy? If we originally posted personal information online, we can assume it is not private. If we electronically accessed any site storing information from the doctor's office to the bank to our school records, we can assume that it is not private either. Organizations will do all they can to set up online security, and hackers will do all they can to infiltrate the systems.

Privacy used to mean that people only knew information you wanted them to know. Now it has no meaning at all. You no longer know the details others know, you also do not know who the others are. Even if you have not personally ever posted online, you have no idea what others may have posted about you.

Of course you still believe you are hiding your deepest secrets like who you are really dating, whether you have ever had a baby, the drugs you are taking, maybe even crimes you have committed. The story has not come out yet. And you cannot be sure if and when it ever will. Any person who may have interacted with your secret may also have posted information about it online. You may already be compromised, and may never know by whom.

What should you do? Think reputation management. The service is generally used by businesses, but more individuals are learning about personal damage control training and paying for cleanup services. The training helps you redirect attention away from a crisis someone else controlled, and the cleanup rebuilds your life and reputation online. As easily as your reputation can be destroyed, the same systems can be used to recreate it. The only requirement is to be prepared with the time, money, and patience to work through the process.

*The Network was defaulted to automatically modify shopping preferences to salary and family configuration based on the individual's expected behavior, created from a profile of previous activities. When a baby was born, which The Network knew from the registration of the birth certificate, the system would update the individual's shopping preferences. If an individual always shopped at a luxury goods price point, clothing and toy purchases would be suggested from similar providers for children. For a discount price point, the practice would be the same.*

*- from The Motion Clue*

# 5

## SURVEILLANCE



### STOP PICKING YOUR NOSE IN PUBLIC

# 2016

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For those of you old enough to remember "Candid Camera," a 1960s television series where unsuspecting participants expressed shock, tears, disgust and laughter after being "caught" on film reacting to a situation, the concept may appear now as a precursor to our everyday lives. After all, we are all on camera all the time.

Surveillance cameras are on street corners, inside restaurants, in elevators, parking lots, on buses and in taxis, and maybe even in front of you right now on your laptop. As all the crime shows now depict, the first evidence to ask for at the scene is the surveillance footage. So besides limiting your criminal behavior, it is a good idea to stop picking your nose, or adjusting your privates or smelling your underarms while walking through any public space. Be aware and learn to modify your behavior in public.

Awareness of your own public behavior will be critical in the future. You must always be alert to the presence of cameras. After all the devices may not only be used by law enforcement. An employer may access the footage to count how many times you go to the bathroom. Or city officials may use it to calculate foot traffic patterns to local bars. The key to any use is that public place means third party data, much of it collected by private owners. The city street surveillance cameras are not only the property of local government or law enforcement. Expect merchants and property owners to sell video surveillance to anyone willing to pay for proof of a person's location, misbehavior or actions at a specific date and time. And as server storage space costs fall, surveillance files may be kept longer and longer to be used against you years after the incident has passed from your memory.

Evidence of your "on screen" behavior is fair game. Act accordingly.

*If The Network's digital eyes were able to capture his full facial view, it would likely register an anomaly, and prompt a tracer protocol to determine where the human had originated his trip and the entire route of his travel. Sergei's artificial adjustment was only designed to avoid instant recognition, by slowing The Network down. The Network did not disregard humans who attempted to evade its surveillance protocols. Any human digitally caught wearing a disguise would be automatically flagged by an automated suspicious behavior tracker, and stay on a watch file waiting for another report  
- from The Unbroken Line*

# 6

## LAW ENFORCEMENT



### GATHER YOUR OWN EVIDENCE

2016

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Have your smartphone at the ready, you too can be a detective.

A typical ensemble cast cop show now includes at least one "officer" who spends all episode in front of a computer screen shouting critical case clues to colleagues. Sherlock Holmes, you have been retired. Detective work passes into the hands of you and me. With surveillance cameras on every corner, and smartphones tracking your every move, a police officer no longer needs to ask questions to get answers, and neither do you. Every suspect should be an only suspect once a digital trail has been analyzed. So you can learn to be your own detective. When walking around, take note of where cameras are located. If you have a single data point about your assailant, you could give the information to a third party to do a complete digital trace and create a file ready to hand to the police at the same time you submit an official report of the crime. You will probably not even need to provide a description, after all social media should have the latest photos.

Private businesses are already selling your e-mail and other personal information to marketers, why not sell it to you? If a private business decides to assist a private investigation, you would be able to purchase the surveillance, credit card, or contact information and use the data to solve your own case. How much would a restaurant owner accept in exchange for giving you the footage of a guy who was bothering you at the bar? How much are you willing to pay to work around the police department and expedite the judicial process?

Be prepared to take digital notes of the digital evidence. Remember your smartphone not only has video and photo functionality but voice recorders too. Plus within minutes you have access to millions of related apps. The technology can give a whole new meaning to the term 'neighborhood watch.'

*If an area existed, at a human level, it was seen. Although individuals often publically discarded coms to demonstrate their untethering from The Network, few were actually beyond its range. Directed by global protocols, government, military, commercial, private, and rogue satellites continuously zoomed in on the earth's surface, and the data was collated by The Network to calculate real-time locations and headcounts for every requesting entity. No individual technically knew how each frequency of global surveillance functioned. And avoiding The Network's view required access to minutely detailed earth surface coordinates that few civilians suspected existed.*

*- from The Unbroken Line*





## DEVELOP A NAME FOR COCKROACH BURGERS

# 2016

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Remember the time you accidentally bought tofu turkey because you thought...that it was turkey? Well expect more of the same. Repurposed food technology, biogenetic engineering, and clever marketing names to cover up the cultivation and processing of insect-based products are in store for a global population expanding towards ten billion. With everyday panics about unknown diseases and health effects, the entire concept of food is bound to change. Whether cockroaches or lettuce leaves will be made to taste like hamburger is only part of the story. We have to simultaneously yield more food from decreasing amounts of arable land, limit pesticides, fight diseases and blight, ensure variety and nutrition, reduce spoilage, improve transportation, and ensure global food security. All while limiting our use of increasingly scarce water resources.

Water security is all too likely to lead to new wars. And there is no substitute for the life resource. Either we adjust our agricultural uses of the liquid or we perish. But although we should now probably understand the unsustainability of our current choices, how fast will we move to address our actions? Prices will rise, as we demand more natural choices harvested closer to the ground. But synthetic foods providing the required balance of nutrients will be the replacement the majority will be able to afford.

To prepare yourself, decide how you are going to eat. If invented food products are not for you, start modifying your shopping and cooking habits. Learn to read the food labels and separate the concepts of bio-engineered food - food that is completely fake; from re-engineered food developed to ward off insects or to yield more per seed.

Chances are unless you are rich, you will not have much choice between eating artificial or starving. Best to decide which is more appealing to you.

*If The Network wanted to track them, it could only find images from the sky. Most governments ignored the outers. Few in numbers, the groups were self-sufficient, and built their own electricity and water sources. In many locations, they were tourist attractions, providing examples for living off the land, and growing natural foods that city dwellers considered a novelty.*

*- from The Unbroken Line*

# 8

## AGING



### REIMAGINE THE STAGES OF YOUR LIFE

# 2016

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Let's see, for much of the 20th century we followed a common path. Go to mandated school until around age 17, then on to college or into the workforce. By mid to late 20s marry, have kids, work, work, work, retire in your 60s and garden. Today choosing this path and knowing about technology advances in health care means that when you retire in your 60s, you could be facing thirty to forty years of gardening. Is that really what you want to do?

Decide now to extend the stages of your life. We are already delaying starting a family, consider delaying everything. Right after high school, work, travel and save for college. Not only will you avoid debt, but also when you arrive at college you can really appreciate the experience (and focus on mastering your STEM skill).

When you finally have a family think about what you want to do with the job transition years, which will inevitably happen. Decide to take the kids out of school for a year, after all they can keep up to speed with their studies online. You are probably not going to have a house, maybe not even a car, you are free, not like your ancestors who were tied to the land. So set-up a plan based on this freedom, and the opportunity to decide how to spend every day of your long life as you really wish.

But understand that financial education is absolutely critical to managing this extension of time on earth. Learn to save. Money functions like time. Know how much you have, use it wisely, and do not let yourself down. When you are younger and without responsibilities, save more than you can. As you start adding family members to take care of, keep up a steady percentage of savings, put the money away without looking at it and live off the balance. Your life is no longer about reaching retirement. Think about being prepared for every segment. If another great recession comes along or technology upends your profession, you need flexibility to make the transition to another world of work. Try not to let money be the excuse for ending up in stagnation.

Human knowledge was every data point ever known or conceived, in every language or communication form that had ever existed on earth. Those who claimed they had 'finished' their education dramatically erred, by severely limiting their choices for the rest of their lives.

- from *The Unbroken Line*

# 9

## DEATH



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## DECIDE IF YOU REALLY WANT TO SAY GOOD-BYE

What do you want to happen to your life online when your life on earth has ended?

In the future you will have a choice not just about whether you carry on, but also whether your loved ones stay with you. Think about the record you will leave behind. The emails, photos, files, music, links, and of course all of those social media posts. Now is the time to create specific instructions for disabling your online presence. Many people, ie. family members who know nothing about you, will want the records to be preserved. Someone will want to look at every photo and wonder what you were thinking, why you took the picture, or even where you were. But do you want that someone to have access to your data?

Today this is the privacy you can manage within the world around you. Unless your cousin is a technologist, you can keep your family from looking at your social media accounts and e-mails. But when you depart, your life online becomes the property of your estate. Those left to dispose of your worldly possessions will have to make decisions about digital and physical personal goods.

To aid their process, when you create a will, leave a confidential list of all your life online accounts and passwords and specific instructions for each one. Maybe even make your life online cleanup compliance a condition for disbursement of your belongings.

If the technology exists to virtually recreate you, consider whether you want to leave permission for the possibility. Do you want your descendants to use the digital evidence of your past life to create a simulated you in the future? And if they did, what would you want virtual you to say, how would you want to act? Do you even care?

One day, this final task will be automated, but until then, document your personal wishes or forever relinquish the last scarp of online privacy still available to you.

*The application software simulated the deceased human's verbal consciousness by aggregating and indexing the existing data records, to generate new conversations or text responses from the once living human to the physical world.*

*- from The Unbroken Line*

# 10

## BEHAVIOR



### KEEP THINKING

# 2016

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The transfer of our lives online is an extension, not a severance, of ourselves. Technology is a tool, an appliance, a convenience, and believe it or not we are using it that way every day.

We used to have payphones on every corner, in stores and gas stations. We wanted to be able to communicate as we moved around. Now the phone is in our hands, a shortcut, but not a fundamental change in human behavior.

We all still get up in the morning and pack the freeways and metro trains for hours and then repeat the rush again in the evening. Is that advancement in our human progress? We have to wash clothes the same way we have washed clothes for decades. We have to sweep and vacuum, no technology has eliminated dust. Children sit in classrooms staring at uninspired teachers and running from bullies on the playground. No technology has altered that balance. Teenagers still need to battle raging hormones, and absorb their horror in alcohol, parties and sex - that has not changed. Adults gossip and scrape in the office, fighting to climb an invisible ladder only for the money and the title and rarely because the position means much more.

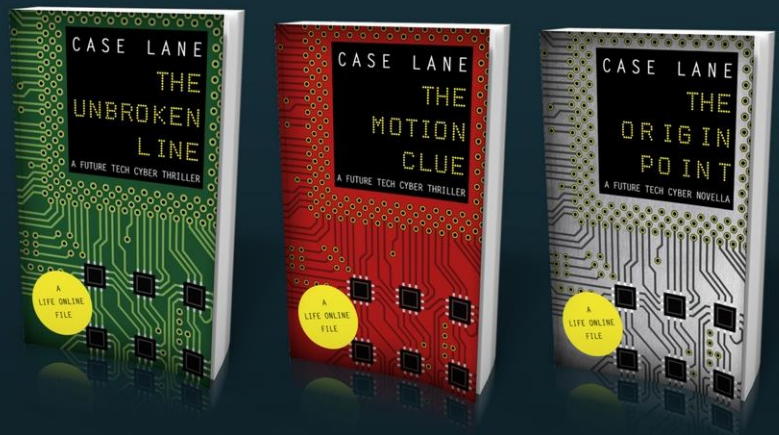
We should not be afraid of technology taking us over, when we can live so unaltered with its benign presence. But we must be alert to someone, a government, rogue technologist, private company or you, who will figure out how to seamlessly bore the software into our psyche and prompt us to react without thinking to commands we did not vote for. Before that happens, remember our human evolutionary progress is based on thinking, brainpower, independents and innovators who challenged the status quo and created a better world.

Keep the technology where it needs to be, as your tool, and your own common sense forever moving forward inside your head.

*It makes you much more than a technologist. You use The Network as a lab, running programs analyzing chemicals and plants, hoping to create new compounds. You use it to manage a business, tracking all of your customers' purchases, and your trade. You use it as a communications device, broadcasting to millions providing education, and some would say entertainment material. You believe you are the human in control of it Dominique, but you are more interconnected to it than just about anyone."*

*- from The Motion Clue*

[WWW.CLANEWORLD.COM](http://WWW.CLANEWORLD.COM)



Case Lane is a global writer, traveler and observer to the future. Educated in communications, political science, business, law and economics, she has lived and worked all over the world as a reporter, diplomat and digital media corporate executive. Building from her interests in international relations and technology, Case envisions a next century world where the essential battle is between the advancement of technology and the instincts of our basic humanity. In her Life Online fiction book series, the majority of people are non-technologists who have to learn to live and manage in a technology-controlled world that they do not understand.

Follow Case Lane to the near future with the Life Online book series of technothriller novels. Click a link below to download Case's books from your favorite ebookstore



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**SNEAK PEAK - Coming in 2016 - The Probable Cause - Book 3 in The Life Online book series**

*"The electronic process had been in place for decades, designed to end once and for all the social divide in judicial sentencing. Without human intervention, all defendants would be on a level playing field. The app had no age, education, ethnic or gender information about the defendant, no birthplace or home address capable of identifying a select demographic. Mitigating circumstances were only included if the situation spoke directly to the crime, but even that decision was made by the computer. In most cases, only a medical condition, altered by drugs or other treatment, would find a place in the revelation of the verdict."*

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