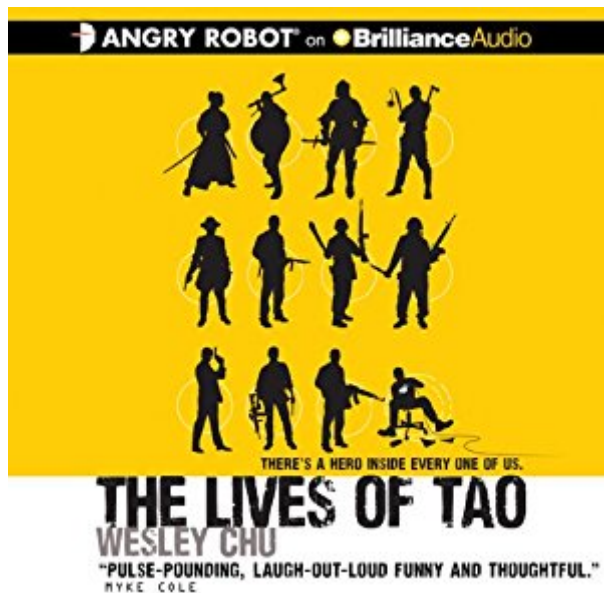


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# The Lives Of Tao



## Synopsis

When out-of-shape IT technician Roen wakes up and starts hearing voices in his head, he naturally assumes he's losing it. He isn't. As of last night, he has a passenger in his brain - an ancient alien life-form called Tao, whose race crash-landed on Earth before the first fish crawled out of the oceans. Over the millennia his people have trained human heroes to be great leaders, to advance our species at a rate far beyond what it would have achieved on its own. Split into two opposing factions - the peace-loving, but under-represented Prophus, and the savage, powerful Genjix - the aliens have been in a state of civil war for centuries. Both sides are searching for a way off-planet... and the Genjix will sacrifice the entire human race, if that's what it takes. So now Roen must train to be a hero worthy of his unwanted companion. Like that's going to end up well....

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Cheap Kindle books can be very hit and miss. Not least because a huge ratings inflation makes it very difficult to separate the wheat from the chaff. "Hey, only 0.99\$, so... 5 stars". This book, and the second in the series, definitely has got my vote. I found it a quick enjoyable read, couldn't put them down and look forward to book #3. Good editing as well. Picture the hero - Roen Tan - a run of the mill, overweight, slightly more slob than usual, computer tech (hardly a genius at it either) that gets possessed by a quasi-immortal alien who forces him through a crash course in combat and spy skills. Not really a possession as such, more an endlessly nagging inner voice that has lived inside successive human hosts since the dawn of time. The suspense, especially in book 1, is in the

contrast between the underachieving, insecure, fairly loveable, geek and the really serious mess he is thrust into, with a sinister opposing alien faction constantly trying to kill him. He is in way over his head, perhaps a little more so than you, the reader, would be. And aren't you happy it's not you getting starved off pizza and donuts? Think Nikita or Chuck meets a bumbling Candide. You feel for him, but suspect that you may not be much better off. The action is more James Bond than say Frederic Forsythe or Robert Ludlum and the fight scenes can be a bit over the top at times, but not too much so. Book 2 heads off in a different, darker, direction, being more focused on the fight between the aliens, rather than on the shortcomings of the protagonist who by now is a lean mean killing machine. Another reviewer criticized Roen's lack of redeeming features and questioned having a main character, with whom we are supposed to identify, so profoundly and juvenily flawed. Frankly, while I get what he is saying, it didn't bother me very much, though your reaction may be different. What did bother me a bit in the setup was how the aliens were pulling the strings on almost all significant human historical characters, from Caesar to Genghis Khan via Isaac Newton. Basically, it didn't seem like we were ever able to think for ourselves. Big deal? Again, no, but it did nag at me in a way Roen's flaws didn't.

I don't understand the excitement about this book. The premise is interesting, but its utilization, absurd. The characters, totally predictable, and the historic facts that supposedly frame the alien's activity, are sketchily described at best, at worst poorly researched. This book might entertain for a while a niche audience of Chicagoan computer programmers who are also into physical training and life hacks. The rest, please avoid.

Wow. I really really enjoyed this book. The book is fun and entertaining and grabs you from the very first chapter and won't let go. The story has some good humor in it, a few places actually had me laughing out loud, and the way he describes the action does not lose me. Sometimes with books, the action is confusing because I cannot picture in my head what is happening. I never had that problem with this book. I found myself trying to find reasons to read it. I cannot wait to start book 2, The Deaths Of Tao. I highly recommend this book. Do yourself a favor and read this story. It will be a great addition to your collection. BOOK SUMMARY: When out-of-shape IT technician Roen woke up and started hearing voices in his head, he naturally assumed he was losing it. He wasn't. He now has a passenger in his brain - an ancient alien life-form called Tao, whose race crash-landed on Earth before the first fish crawled out of the oceans. Now split into two opposing factions - the peace-loving, but under-represented Propus, and the savage, powerful Genjix - the aliens have

been in a state of civil war for centuries. Both sides are searching for a way off-planet, and the Genjix will sacrifice the entire human race, if that's what it takes. Meanwhile, Roen is having to train to be the ultimate secret agent. Like that's going to end up well...

I love to read books that read with a brisk pace, that move from important action to important action, that wear their heart on their metaphorical sleeve. This book does all of that for me. It also has a twist on the urban science fiction/fantasy genre that I appreciate. It almost feels like those old episodes of X-Files (the serialized ones about the aliens, not the freak-of-the-week episodes) crossed with Assassin's Creed, crossed with something touchy-feely that I would watch with my wife, but never read by itself. I saw some negative comments, folks who didn't get the humor, folks who didn't identify with the main character, for whatever reason. I respect those comments. There were several things that took me out of the story temporarily like the colloquial and incorrect use of the word schizophrenia (which clinically does not mean multiple-personality disorder), but I quickly let those slide because the rest of the story rolled along and carried me through. There was a little more preaching about living a good life and what that meant than I really wanted to hear, but it fit with the character and the interactions he had with his symbiotic alien, Tao. I am planning on following Roen and Tao's adventures, though. Keep it up Wesley! (P.S. Lee Ann made me read this book, and I'm glad she did. :D)

A different type of alien invasion story. Without giving too much away, the "aliens" essentially possess their human host and use them to shape human evolution and progress. It degrades into a mediocre spy/cold war between alien factions, but it still is essentially entertaining.

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