

# We Are All Targets

Matt Potter

Read by MATTHEW WATERSON

## The incredible untold story of cyberwar and the hackers who unleashed it on the world

Two years before 9/11, the United States was attacked by an unknown enemy. No advance warning was given, and it didn't target civilians. Instead, Tomahawk missiles started missing their targets, US agents were swept up by hostile governments, and America's enemies seemed to know its every move in advance. A new phase of warfare—cyberwar—had arrived. And within two decades it escaped Pandora's Box, plunging us into a state of total war where every day, countless cyberattacks perpetrated by states and mercenaries are reshaping the world.

After receiving an anonymous email with leaked NATO battle plans during the bombardment of Kosovo, journalist Matt Potter embarked on a twenty-year investigation into the origins of cyberwar and how it came to dominate the world. He uncovered its beginnings—worthy of a Bond movie—in the last days of the Cold War, as the US and its allies empowered a generation of Eastern European hackers, only to wake up in the late '90s to a terrifying new reality. It's a story that winds through Balkan hacking culture, a rising China and reemergent Russia, war-torn Ukraine, Silicon Valley, and the Pentagon, introducing us to characters such as a celebrity hacker with missing fingers who keeps escaping prison, FBI agents chasing the first generation of cybermercenaries in the '90s, tech CEOs, and Russian generals obsessed with a Cold War rematch. Never before told, this is the riveting secret history of cyberwar not as governments want it to be—controlled, military-directed, discreet, and sophisticated—but as it really is: anarchic, chaotic, dangerous, and often thrilling.

MATT POTTER has written on global politics, security, and crime for the *Washington Post*, the BBC, and the *Sunday Telegraph*. He has reported from Russia, the Balkans, east Africa, Afghanistan, China, and Southeast Asia. His book on Russia's global network of illicit arms flights, *Outlaws Inc: Flying with the World's Most Dangerous Smugglers*, has been published in four different languages and serialized in twenty-seven, and is in production as a Hollywood movie. He lives in London.



Playing time: 10.5 hrs • Unabridged

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