

# ATPE BOOK of the month CLUB

## **Brain Jack** by *Brian Falkner*

1. When Sam is caught for his illegal actions, he thinks about the fact that he “hadn’t ever really stopped to consider the consequences of his actions.” What are these consequences and how will they affect him and those with whom he is close? Why do you think Sam broke the law in the first place?
2. Sam is faced with a tough decision while being held in Recton: “On one hand, there was an unspecified amount of time in jail (they’d throw away the key, according to Kiwi). On the other hand was a life of running and hiding, constantly looking over his shoulder. An outlaw, an outcast, a fugitive.” If faced with the same decision, which path would you choose and why? Considering everything that happens to him after his decision, do you think Sam made the right choice?
3. Do you think the author does a good job developing the characters in the story? Find examples in the book to support your answer.
4. When Sam is hired, he finds out that many events in history were falsely reported to the public, such as Roswell. Do you think there is any truth to the notion that the government covers up various historical events? Why do you think they would do this?
5. Describe the evolution of Sam and Vienna’s relationship.
6. In the book, gaming is a very real and dangerous addiction. Could something like this potentially happen in real life?
7. The invention of Neuro-headsets allows blind people to see and deaf people to hear. Do these effects outweigh the negative consequences of Neuro-headsets, such as addiction? How could Neuro-headsets potentially be regulated to prevent negative effects? What obstacles to these regulations might there be?
8. The idea that a supercomputer could take over the world is appears in a few other books and movies. Choose another book or movie that uses this theme and compare it to *Brain Jack*. Which did you like best and why?
9. Why did Ursula consider gaming to be something that needed to be destroyed?
10. At one point Sam asks himself what might have happened if they had left Ursula alone. What do you think would have been the result?

