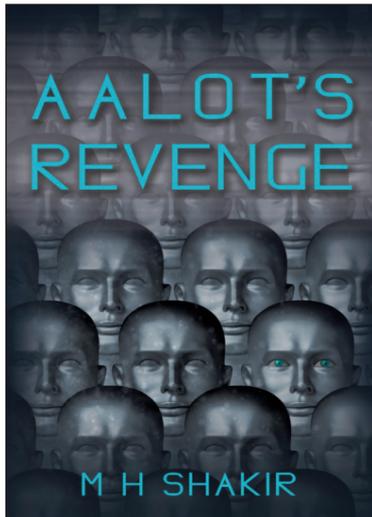




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AALOT'S REVENGE

M H Shakir explores the potential effects of using artificial intelligence to aid the increasing population

With people living longer and the over 65 population on the increase, Buckinghamshire based clinician M H Shakir wondered what would happen if medical advances meant we could prolong human life. Described by BBC News as 'one of the hottest topics on the planet right now', artificial intelligence is an area of developing interest and it was these two contributing factors that inspired Shakir's debut novel *Aalot's Revenge*. Set in a dystopian world faced with an increasing population, there are no solutions except to take advantage of the use of artificial intelligence to care for the elderly citizens.

The eponymous novel details Aalot's attempts to get back at his parents. Bitter for having been born severely disabled, Aalot blames his parents' selfish ways for his situation. He decides to infiltrate the minds of his parents by adapting the technology that aids his disability. Having taken control of his father, he causes him to risk everything by launching a project to reintroduce human-like robots as a solution to the shortage of carers for the elderly. Both illegal and highly controversial, the project reignites past fears regarding what are referred to only as the 'troubles', situations that occurred when robots became totally independent.

As a clinician who specialises in geriatrics, Shakir has often wondered how artificial intelligence could help the older population. 'The rapid technological advances in the world could easily lead to disaster, especially with the practical issues associated with advances in medicine and people living longer.'

Born in Sri Lanka, **M H SHAKIR** graduated in Russia before moving to England. A medic with a special interest in geriatrics, Shakir has spent the last two years in the outback of Australia and has now returned to England to continue writing.



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FOR AUTHOR INTERVIEWS, REVIEW OR COMPETITION COPIES, ARTICLES, PHOTOS OR EXTRACTS PLEASE CONTACT ALICE GRAHAM

TEL: 0116 279 2299 EMAIL: ALICE_GRAHAM@TROUBADOR.CO.UK

TROUBADOR PUBLISHING, 9 PRIORY BUSINESS PARK, WISTOW ROAD, KIBWORTH, LEICESTER LE8 ORX