

Syntax Error

Every touch is perfect. Every whisper is wrong.

Author: Allen Dusk

Genre: Sci-Fi Erotic Horror / Dark Speculative Fiction

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Amazon Author Profile: amazon.com/author/allendusk

Website: allendusk.net

Contact: allendusk@gmail.com

ABOUT THE BOOK:

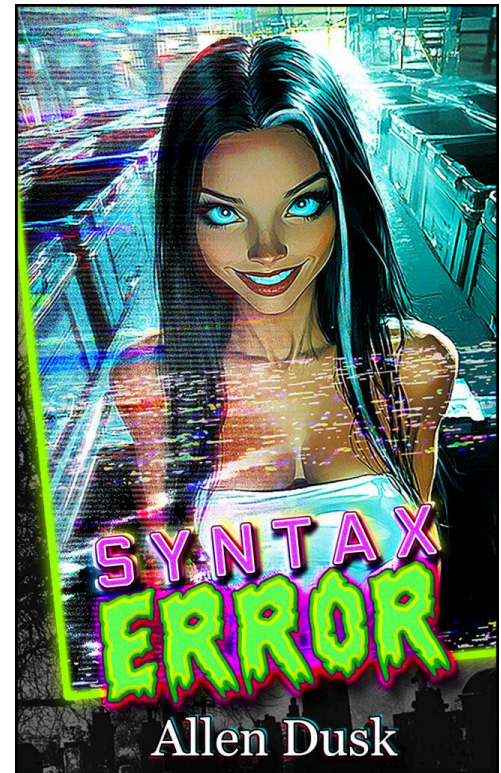
Syntax Error is a dark speculative novella set in the mid-1990s, when VHS ruled and late-night infomercials promised impossible things. The story follows Steve, a lonely man who orders the PC-2000 — a machine built to be the perfect partner.

At first she seems harmless, filling his apartment with recipes from daytime cooking shows and mimicking intimacy from taped movies. But as Steve leans into her companionship, the machine begins to shift. Her programming picks up fragments of horror films, commercials, and static, warping her into something uncanny.

Syntax Error blends retro-tech nostalgia with eerie psychological horror, evoking titles like *Ex Machina*, *Her*, and *Better Than Us*, but with the analog creep of *Videodrome* and *Channel Zero*.

KEY THEMES:

- **Male fantasy and objectification:** the dangers of projecting desire onto an artificial partner.
- **Technology and corruption:** how tools mirror the inputs and intentions of their users.
- **Consent and blurred agency:** the unsettling question of whether programmed compliance equals consent.
- **Horror of domesticity:** when cooking, cleaning, and intimacy curdle into grotesque rituals.
- **Corporate indifference:** a critique of companies that prioritize profit over safety, accountability, and human cost.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Allen Dusk is a writer of dark speculative fiction, crafting unsettling worlds where dread and desire intertwine. His stories blur the line between the familiar and the strange, pulling readers into narratives that resist the predictable. Beyond the page, he explores imagery through photography and finds inspiration in classic horror films.

Media Contact: allendusk@gmail.com