



Engines of Empathy (Drakeforth Trilogy Book 1)

Paul Mannering

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"If Douglas Adams had been forced to undergo relationship counselling with his toaster, this is the book that would have resulted." - Debbie Cowens, author of *Murder & Matchmaking* and *Mansfield with Monsters*.

A computer psychologist, a retired god, and a family secret walk into a building. Then it explodes.

Charlotte Pudding, computer psychologist and recent orphan, is not precisely thrilled with her lot in life (and not just because of the 'orphan' bit). Nevertheless, having her routine disrupted by a shadowy corporation, a man who claims to be a retired god, and the secrets of her own family history isn't a walk in the park, either.

Charlotte's quest for answers will lead her on a perilous journey into a religion based on Quantum Physics, a hunt for unexpectedly rare plant oil, and a fight to the shame against a black-belt in sarcasm.

In a world that runs on empathy, Charlotte is going to discover just how far some people are prepared to go to maintain the status quo.

Winner of the 2015 Sir Julius Vogel Award for Best Novel.

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"A hint of Adams, a dollop of Pratchett, all delivered with a mischievous smile for an intriguing tale that is great fun ... A wonderfully humorous tale that keeps you smiling and intrigued to the very end."

- Te Radar

"Ever wondered what life would be like if all our machines were powered not by electricity or petrol, but by emotions? Neither had I. But now, thanks to Paul Mannering, I can't stop wondering. Clever, satirical and more than a little weird, Engines of Empathy introduces one of the strangest worlds I've encountered in New Zealand fiction - a world that, much like our own, is haunted by the moral consequences of an energy-intensive industrial revolution. From sulking toasters, depressed computers and a passive aggressive fridge to quantum religions and corporate conspiracies, Engines of Empathy is a crazy ride."

- Dylan Horrocks

"Engines of Empathy is charming, clever, funny, and a rollicking good read. Charlotte Pudding is a heroine sensible and capable enough to tackle an abundance of eccentric characters, shady conspiracies, neurotic machines, attack-sarcasm, and a religion based on quantum mechanics. If Douglas Adams had been forced to undergo relationship counselling with his toaster, this is the book that would have resulted."

- Debbie Cowens, author of *Mansfield with Monsters* and *Murder & Matchmaking*

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