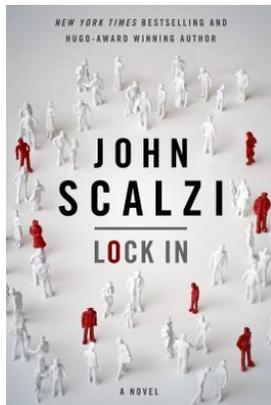


# Lillie M. Evans Library District Book Club

June 26, 2017

## Biography:



**John Michael Scalzi II** is an American science fiction author, online writer, and former president of the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America. Scalzi was born in California, on May 10, 1969. He is of Italian descent; his grandfather immigrated from Italy to the United States as a young child. His childhood was spent in poverty, an experience that inspired him to write his most famous essay, "Being Poor." Scalzi earned a bachelor's degree in philosophy at the University of Chicago, graduating in 1991. He is best known for his Old Man's War series, three novels of which have been nominated for the Hugo Award, and for his blog, *Whatever*. His novel Redshirts won the 2013 Hugo Award for Best Novel. He has written non-fiction books and columns on diverse topics such as finance, video games, films, astronomy, writing and politics, and served as a creative consultant for the TV series *Stargate Universe*. (Source: Wikipedia)

## Similar Resources:



## Discussion Questions:

1. How far in the future do you think the book is set?
2. How well does the author marry the police procedural framework with the other elements of the story?
3. Issues with disability are a central theme in this novel. With the passing of a new law, the Haden community is in some sort of a panic. What happens when government has to pull back from its funding of various disability programs which help those who suffer from it function?
4. Furthermore, the virtual reality that many Haden individuals slip into for some solace will also eventually be subscriber based. Should anyone have to watch a few minutes of advertisements before they are allowed to function?
5. If there was a cure for Hadens, would Chris take it? Would you choose your current body, appearance and gender presentation to use at all times and places if you had any other choice?
6. Nowhere in the book is Chris confirmed as male or female – and it doesn't matter since Chris is only perceived as a threep. What role does gender play when you don't have a functional body?

Prequel novella available at: <http://www.tor.com/stories/2014/05/unlocked-an-oral-history-of-hadens-syndrome-john-scalzi>