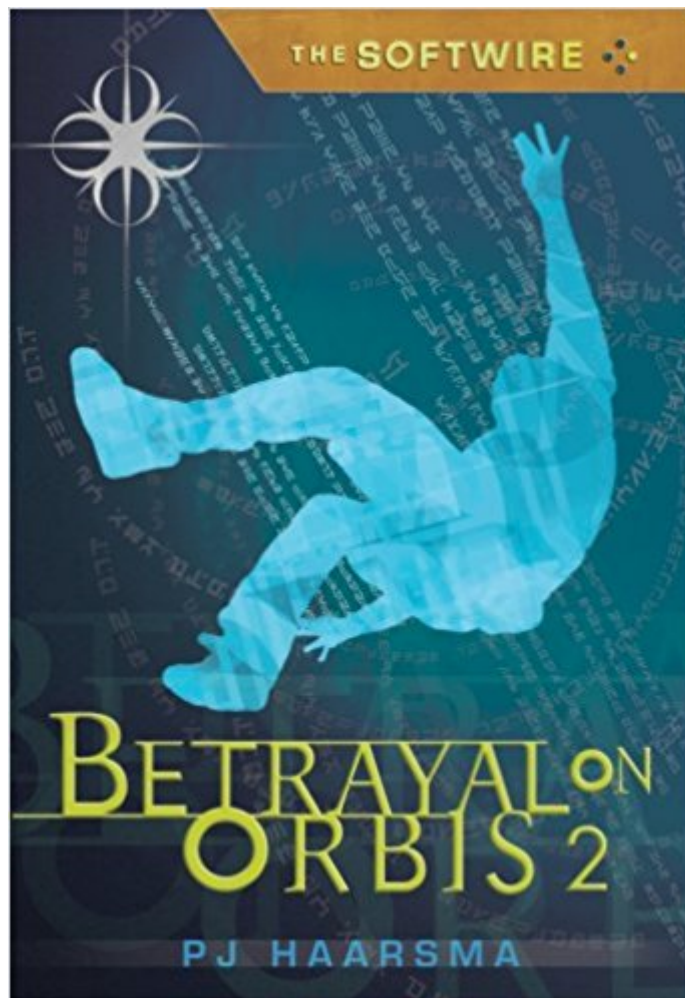


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# The Softwire: Betrayal On Orbis 2



## Synopsis

Part two of the cyber-fueled series about the first human software! Can JT appease the huge aquatic aliens on Orbis 2 in time to save his friends?"A fast-moving plot filled with kids fighting the odds; bizarre creatures both devious and noble; real messages about civilization, barbarity, ethics, and freedom; and a healthy dose of alien gore make this a strong science fiction read for the younger teen set." [Booklist](#)

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 630L (What's this?)

Series: Software (Book 2)

Paperback: 320 pages

Publisher: Candlewick; Reprint edition (April 1, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 076364269X

ISBN-13: 978-0763642693

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.9 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces ([View shipping rates and policies](#))

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 21 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #744,141 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #90 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Runaways](#) #151 in [Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Runaways](#) #488 in [Books > Teens > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction > Aliens](#)

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

Grade 5 [Booklist](#) • A sequel to *The Software: Virus on Orbis 1* (Candlewick, 2006). Johnny Turnbull, 14, is a "software" who can use his mind to communicate with any computer. He and fellow "knud-niks," who were enslaved to alien Guarantors on the Rings of Orbis to pay off their parents' debts, are sent to Orbis 2 now that their duties on the first ring are complete. Here they encounter harsher conditions, crueler Guarantors, and a web of political intrigue centered around the harvest of valuable crystals. JT is the only one capable of communicating with the Samirans, the gigantic aquatic aliens who have been cooling the crystals for many rotations and are now showing signs of unrest. The story and mysteries are compelling but complicated, and a working knowledge of the

first book's events and vocabulary is essential. The characters are recognizable types, but the actions are morally nuanced: in one of the most memorable scenes, cruel Odran puts JT in charge of the other young human workers and forces him to punish Switzer, a bully, with an electric-shock device. Themes of family, political maneuvering, tension between races, and the desire to escape captivity are palpable throughout. --Megan Honig, New York Public Library Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

In the second volume in The Softwire series *Virus on Orbis 1* (2006), JT Turnbull learned that he would be forced to work off his late parents' debt from their passage on the ship that brought them to the Rings of Orbis. In this sequel, JT is released from his alien Guarantor service and transferred to Orbis 2, along with his sister, Ketheria, and a crew of fellow child laborers, or knudniks. Forced to work for a repugnant and spiteful alien, JT and the knudniks are charged with caring for enormous aquatic creatures, called Samirans, that manage the crystals necessary to the health and wealth of the Rings. As a softwire, JT alone is able to communicate with the Samirans, and he finds himself caught between the machinations of his new Guarantor and Samiran interests. A fast-moving plot filled with kids fighting against the odds; bizarre creatures both devious and noble; real messages about civilization, barbarity, ethics, and freedom; and a healthy dose of alien gore make this a strong science-fiction read for the younger teen set. Grades 5-8. --Holly Koelling --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This book 2 sequel to The Softwire series is an enjoyable science fiction read that is not only good for adults, but late elementary school to junior high kids will also enjoy. It's unusual (at least for me) to find a book the whole family can enjoy without one set feeling as if it is too "dumbed down" for the younger set to understand and annoy the parents, nor too detailed or technical that the younger set will get frustrated. The author does a good job of quickly getting you into the story as well as lots of action that has you eagerly waiting to turn the page. Your heart will race a little bit during some of the action scenes, and you get a feeling of actually being a part of the story vs. just someone reading a tale. I enjoyed this one quite a bit as did my children, now I'm off to purchase book 3 in the series.

I have just finished reading book 3 of this series. I have read books 1 and 2 a short time ago, and I can't wait to read book 4. While reading book 3, I realized how well-planned out the plot lines are.

You see everything start to come together in book 3, and you start to see the story arc of the entire series. Book 1 really hooked me, and the rest of the series (so far) is just as good, or even better. Recommended by N. Fillion to all his fans on twitter. Sci-fi kids' series, but enjoyable to read as an adult.

My grandchildren and I have a book club and this was one of our choices. We all enjoyed it and found much to discuss. All of us enjoy scyfy and this was a fairly original plot. We look forward to the next two in the series.

Good continuation but a little confusing at times.

Excellent book, looking forward to the rest of the series and the related Spectrum series from the talented P.J. Haarsma!

It's lighter fare as far as sci-fi goes but that doesn't mean it isn't enjoyable! Sometimes you just don't want to get bogged down by an over-technical more hard sci-fi book. I loved reading this one because it just felt fun the entire time.

The second book is an improvement and we have a much richer character building experience. We get the same good story telling and the age group is still appropriate (ages 12~14) but still a nice ride for adults too. PJ has matured by this book and it shows.

I started with the first book. It is a very easy read. I enjoyed it so much I tore thru the complete series. You won't be disappointed if you like science fiction.

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