

Book Review: Nine Minutes Eleven Seconds  
By L.V. Pederson

Thanks to NetGalley and Raconteur 888 Press for an advance copy of this book in exchange for an honest review. “Nine Minutes Eleven Seconds” is scheduled for publication on January 10, 2025.

If you’re looking for a fast-paced, thrilling novel that reads like an action movie, look no further. “Nine Minutes Eleven Seconds” by L.V. Pederson will grab you from the get-go and hold you there until the final pages.

In present day Silicon Valley, Samantha Dockett is killed by a hit-and-run driver. Now Madison Maxwell sits in the dead woman’s cubicle at Know, Inc., a tech giant with a charismatic VP who looks strikingly familiar to Madison. That’s because Madison’s past is striking. As a young girl, she waved goodbye to her father at Boston’s Logan Airport the day before her birthday, not knowing that a short time later he would be on American Airlines Flight 11 that crashed into the North Tower of the World Trade Center.

Since then, Madison has been obsessed with the terrorist mastermind behind the World Trade Center attack known as Mohamed Attar, whose body was never found amid the rubble and destruction. And she quickly latches on to the belief that her new boss, T.J. Kahn, is in fact the supposedly deceased terrorist. Together with her newfound friend, computer geek extraordinaire Will, she sets out to prove that Kahn is really Attar, who never died on 9/11.

Until the FBI and national security step in. Then things get *really* lively.

There are a few moments where you’re likely to raise your eyebrows and say to yourself, if not out loud, “Now that’s a bit of a stretch.” But the story is fiction, so you accept the premise as is. The action, however, is genuine, and Pederson’s narrative and character development have you rooting for Madison from the start.

Even when you're able to say, "I saw that coming," the turn of events still has the desired effect.

The pace accelerates at breakneck speed over the last several chapters until the climax, and then Pederson neatly brings the story full circle without being corny.

I fully enjoyed "Nine Minutes Eleven Seconds," and highly recommend it. Five out of five stars for this thriller that will be hard to put down.