

# THE BLUE SCREEN OF DEATH

**SETTING:** present day; remote village in Georgia.

**THEMES:** biohacking; limit of human abilities; secret societies.

**GENRE:** sci-fi; detective; mystery.

**ADAPTATION:** feature film

## SHORT SYNOPSIS:

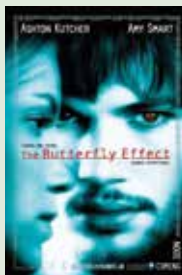
The protagonist of the novel Lasha gets entangled in an extraordinary story. As an IT security specialist, he is commissioned by a governmental agency to investigate the life of a village school teacher. The teacher named Iese, child of emigrants who came back home for a solitary and altruistic life, causes suspicion because of his selfless lifestyle and excellent results with village kids. As Lasha gets to know the genius teacher up close, he gradually discovers Iese's secret mission. In the finale, Lasha even plans to become the mission's successor.

## MOVIE REFERENCES:

**K-PAX** (2001) a film by Iain Softley

**The Butterfly Effect** (2004) a film by Eric Bress and J. Mackye Gruber

**Tenet** (2020) a film by Christopher Nolan



## CHARACTERS:

**Lasha** – the narrator, a cybersecurity specialist turned investigator

**Tariel Loria** – government employee from the Security Council

**Lizi** – Lasha's landlady in a remote village where he goes for investigation; later his lover.

**Tiko** – Lizi's daughter

**Jessy** – Tiko's cat

**Yesse Kakabadze** – a gifted young man who teaches kids of different ages in a remote Georgian village and seems to have a supernatural affect on their intellectual abilities



BOOK SAMPLE

## SUMMARY:

Lasha is a cybersecurity and IT specialist who gets recruited by a government official, Mr. Tariel Loria for different jobs. One day Tariel asks him to meet to talk about a new task in person.

The new task is different from previous ones and has nothing to do with cyber security, it is an investigator's job. The government has taken interest in young man Yesse Kakabadze, - a son of Georgian emigrants who came back to the homeland to teach in a remote village. He does the job without any reward, on mere enthusiasm. Yesse's presence and actions have raised suspicion because his students all show huge progress at school Olympics, and other tournaments. They all seem to be excelling in various disciplines. This fact and the teacher's selfless nature are suspicious enough to send a special investigator, someone discreet who will uncover the motives and secrets of the mystery man.

Lasha spends a fair amount of time studying the files that Tariel gave him and decides to go to the village for fieldwork. He says to the locals that he is a journalist, doing a special feature about gifted youth of the village. Lasha rents a room from a young woman named Lizi and gets on work.

From the very beginning, he can sense something strange and even supernatural in the area. Children seem different and gifted beyond mere knowledge of subjects and facts. He interviews them and Yesse, who is an impressionable young man, but also has a strange air about him.

Lasha slowly becomes close to his host Lizi, to the point that they start sleeping together. Lizi has a young daughter Tiko and a very smart cat Jessy. Lasha starts to deeply care about them. He also observes one peculiar detail. Yesse's home as well as the one he stays in, both have solar panels on the rooftops fully providing them with energy. Lizi tells them that one day their power was cut because of the weather and Jesse, who is Tiko's teacher and cares for her a lot, offered to help out. He installed the panels, the same as the ones he has on his house and since then the family never had any issues.

One day Lasha wakes up with a terrible headache, which worsens over the course of the day, making him black out at some point. He understands it is not an ordinary burnout and that something very strange is happening to his body and mind. Being an Information Technologies specialist, he compares it to the state of "the blue screen of death" and a restart after that. His entire biological system is rebooted.

The next day Lasha has a revelation, charged with boosted energy and intellectual abilities, he finally sees everything clearly. His investigative powers awaken and he finally understands who Yesse is. After doing additional research, he goes to the young teacher and confronts him. Turns out that Yesse is a member of a secret organization New World Sustainability Vision,

which conducts genetic experiments on people, pushing their mental and physical abilities to their limit and awakening almost supernatural powers in humans. The solar panels that Jesse has installed on his and Lizi's home are the device that triggers this effect on the human brain. One of the casualties of this activity, other than the more mature students of Jesse, is Tiko, Lizi's daughter. Tiko has additionally developed a superconnection with their cat, Jessy. Lasha discusses the specifics and moral issues connected to this experiment with the teacher. While Lasha feels uneasy with all this, Yesse is convinced that his mission is essential for progress. Lasha has questions about himself too, as he was subjected to this experiment as well.

Going back home, Lasha tells Lizi all about this. A few days later, before he has decided whether to report to the government officials, there is a big blast in Jesse's home, and a fire breaks out. Lasha doesn't know what to make of it. Next day he meets with Tariel and tells him everything about the practice of biohacking and Yesse's affiliation with NWSV. Tariel praises his work and lets him know Yesse's death was a diversion and they already arrested his killers (citizens of Russia) at the Georgian border, while they tried to leave the country.

This whole story has left a mark on Lasha, he tries to go on with his life but either the emotional attachment to the case or his newfound "superpowers" do not allow him to. He sits down to check the inbox and finds a letter from Yesse, sent shortly before his death. He has sent Lasha the username and password. There it is - he is bound to be Yesse's successor in the mission. He gets out and starts the car. He knows exactly what to do.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Irakli Machitadze was born in 1970. He graduated from Kutaisi Technical University and got a degree in Automation Technologies. From 1992 to 1995 Irakli was the editor of musical programs for Rioni TV and a journalist at the 2nd Channel. In 1995 he co founded the first FM radio station in western Georgia – The Old Town, which he still runs today. Irakli has been an anchor and producer of different TV and radio shows throughout the years. He was awarded by The Federation of Georgian Journalists in 1999 as an author of musical and educational programs.

Irakli's short stories have been published in different periodicals and magazines since 1993. *The Blue Screen of Death* is his debut novel, it was shortlisted in the Best Literary Debut category by SABA awards (the winner will be announced in late September 2023).