



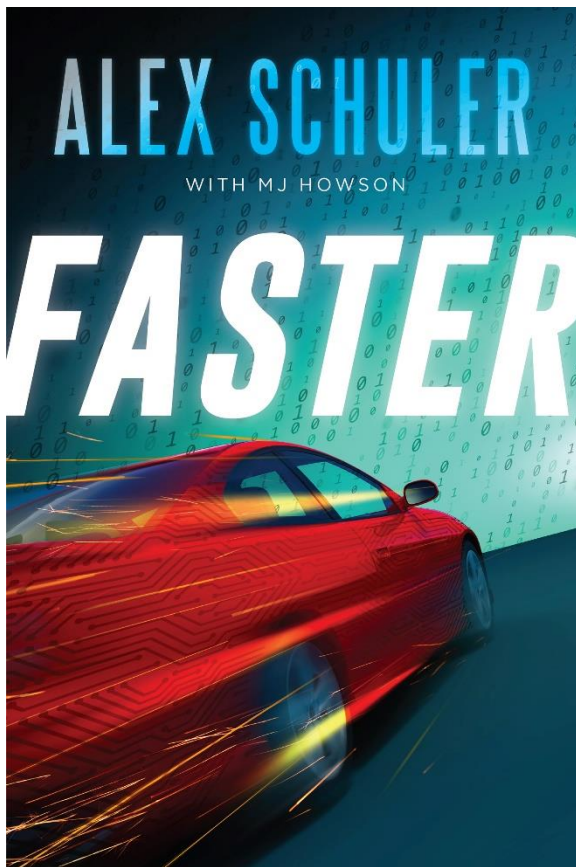
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**New Action Thriller by Alex Schuler Takes on the Controversial
and Dramatic History of Self-Driving Cars**

Level 4 Press presents a fictionalized retelling of how the autonomous car came to be.



JAMUL, CA (FEB 2020) — Author Alex Schuler captures intense determination and a clash of egos in his new action thriller, **Faster**. It follows a fictional engineer and computer scientist who helped pioneer the self-driving car industry while navigating their own tumultuous relationship. Their drive to take on Detroit and become leaders in this technological revolution leaves the reader in awe of what humanity can accomplish, and just how much sacrifice it takes to change the world.

Autonomous car breakthroughs spiked during the DARPA challenges between 2004 and 2013, giving names to eccentric computer scientists and engineers drawn to innovation. These remarkable individuals often find themselves embroiled in controversy as they forge new paths. Robotics wonderkid Sebastian Thrun is regularly in the news for his “internet freedom” crusades. Elon Musk is legendary for breaking norms, such as the Tesla autopilot feature rushed to market in 2015. Autonomous vehicle guru Anthony Levandowski took on Google, then found himself sentenced to jail, only to be pardoned by former president

Donald Trump. These pioneers dedicated their lives to technological progress. But what’s behind their drive—self-interest or a desire to improve society? Or some of both?

Alex Schuler fictionalizes the autonomous car industry’s past, exploring the motivations of these innovators and asking what we can expect for the future.



In **Faster**, Ted is a brilliant engineer and mechanic who can build anything. But stay out of his way. Everything and everyone in his life is tested to the breaking point until he's recruited to work with a group of nerdy college roboticists to win DARPA's autonomous vehicle challenge. The team benefits from his brilliance and has a real chance at winning.

That is, until they meet their match at the competition. Just as Ted is the brilliance that makes the difference for his team, Samantha (Sam) is the brains behind an entirely different approach to technology for her team. Brought together by a well-connected entrepreneur the unlikely trio will take Silicon Valley by storm until Ted's reckless nature derails his relationship with Sam, gets people killed, and nearly undermines all they've worked for.

Alex Schuler delivers a dramatic story of how the self-driving car came to be. **Faster** examines the value of progress, the cost of obsession, and the extraordinary power of the human mind, set to the backdrop of a phenomenon is about to shake the world.

If you liked *The Social Network* or *Ford vs Ferrari*, you'll love this book.

"The characters in *Faster* are all exceptionally strong, distinct, complex, and engaging. It delivers excitement, anxiety, humor, romance, tragedy, and despair." –*Screencraft*

Alex Schuler began developing artificial intelligence software for the commercial and defense sectors following a career as a pilot in the U.S. Navy. At the same time, he delved into writing books that explore the ethical and philosophical implications of technology, through engaging science fiction and thoughtful examinations of the people behind today's most sophisticated—and potentially dangerous—breakthroughs.

Originally founded in 2006 with a focus on poetry, Level 4 Press has won nine literary gold medals and 24 finalist awards, including Forward Magazine Audiobook of the Year; Poetry Foundation Best Verse Drama; Bill Fisher Award for Best New Fiction; USA Book News Best Audiobook; Indie Excellence Awards for Best Poetry and Best Current Events Book; and Forward Magazine Book of the Year finalist.

If you would like more information or to interview Alex Schuler, please contact Alyssia Gonzalez at alyssia@level4press.com