**Quotes on technology from Exit West**

**Chapter I**

*“subsonic vibration […] emitted by large loudspeakers at music concerts”*

Page 2

*“Saeed works for an agency specialized in the placement of outdoor adverting.”*

Page 3

*“Normally Saeed tried to do copious amounts of online research […]”*

Page 4

*“sent it out”*

*“As Saeed’s email was being downloaded for a server […]”*

Page 5

*“The sleeping woman used the alarm only sporadically, mostly when her husband was absent.”*

*“On the table were passports […] a pair of handcuffs”*

*“Her room was bathed in the glow of her computer charger and wireless router.”*

Page 6

*“The cinema they remembered so fondly had been replaced by chopping arcade for computers and electronics peripherals.”*

Page 11

*“In what Saeed family called living room there was a telescope, black and sleek.”*

Page 13

*“Saeed straightened and held up his phone, directing his camera at the heavens, consulting an application that indicated the name of celestial bodies.”*

Page 15

*“Their phones rested screens-down between them, like the weapons of desperadoes at the parley.”*

Page 16

**Chapter II**

*“[…] on an afternoon of handling executive auto policy renewals by phone, when she received an instant message from Saeed"*

Page 19

*“[…] that she let out to a seller of car-battery-based-residential-power-backup system.”*

*“[…] When the electricity had not gone out, bathed in the soft and shimmying glow of a large, animated neon sign […].”*

Page 24

*“Nadia selected a record an album sung by a ing-dead woman who was once an icon of a style […]”*

Page 25

*“[…] as the sound of a jetliner descending to the nearby airport come and went.”*

Page 29

*“Or asked her for her personal number”*

Page 30

*“[…] into the soundproofed premises of a recording studio that specialized increasingly in audio work for television.”*

Page 30

*“They rarely spoke on the phone”*

Page 31

*“[…] to say to one another by phone and instant message seems too impersonal”*

Page 31

**Chapter III**

*“Nadia and Saeed were, back then, always in possession of their phones. In their phones were antennas, and these antennas sniffed out an invisible world, as if by magic, a world that was all around them, and also nowhere, transporting them to places distant and near, and to places that had never been and would never be. For many decades after independence a telephone line in their city had remained a rare thing, the waiting list for a connection long, the teams that installed the copper wires and delivered the heavy handsets greeted and revered and bribed as heroes. But now wands waved in the city’s air, untethered and free, phones in the millions, and a number could be obtained in minutes, for a pittance.*

*Saeed partly resisted the pull of his phone. He found the antenna too powerful, the magic it summoned too mesmerizing, as though he were eating a banquet of limitless food, stuffing himself, stuffing himself, until he felt dazed and sick, and so he had removed or hidden or restricted all but a few applications. His phone could make calls. His phone could send messages. His phone could take pictures, identify celestial bodies, transform the city into a map while he drove. But that was it. Mostly. Except for the hour each evening that he enabled the browser on his phone and disappeared down by the byways of the internet. But this hour was tightly regulated, and when it ended, a timer would set off an alarm, a gentle, windy chime, as though from the breezy planet of some blue-shimmering science fiction priestess, and he would electronically lock away his browser and not browse again on his phone until the following day.*

*Yet even this pared-back phone, this phone stripped of so much of its potential, allowed him to access Nadia’s separate existence, at first hesitantly, and then more frequently, at any time of day or night, allowed him to start to enter into her thoughts, as she towelled herself after a shower, as she ate a light dinner alone, as she sat at her desk hard at work, as she reclined on her toilet after emptying her bladder.”*

Page 35

*“In contrast to Saeed, Nadia saw no need to limit her phone. It kept her company on long evenings, as it did countless young people in the city who were likewise stranded in their homes, and she rode it far out into the world on otherwise solitary, stationary lights. She watched bombs falling, women exercising, men copulating, clouds gathering, waves tugging at the sand like the rasping licks of so many mortal, temporary, vanishing tongues, tongues of a planet that would one day too be no more.*

*Nadia frequently explored the terrain of social media, though she left little trace of her passing, not posting much herself, and employing opaque usernames and avatars, the online equivalents of her black robes.“*

Page 37

*“But even now the city’s freewheeling virtual world stood in stark contrast to the day-to-day lives of most people, to those of young men, and especially of young women, and above all of children who went to sleep unfed but could see on some small screen people in foreign lands preparing and consuming and even conducting food fights with feasts of such opulence that the very fact of their existence boggled the mind.*

*Online there was sex and security and plenty and glamour.”*

Page 38

*“Nadia and Saeed had been messaging each other throughout “*

*Page 40*

*“Saeed parked around the corner from Nadia’s building, messaged hat he had arrived”*

*Page 41*

*“Saeed’s phone had died and he charged it in his family’s car from a backup-battery source he kept in the glove compartment, and as his phone turned on it beeped and chirped with his parents’ panic, their missed calls, their messages, their mounting terror at a child not returned safely that night, a night when many children of many parents did not return at all.”*

Page 44

*“Mostly they communicated by phone, a message here, a link to an article here, a shared image of one or the other of them at work, or at home, before a window as the sun set or a breeze blew or a funny expression came and went.”*

Page 51

*“Saeed forwarded to Nadia a popular joke about the militants politely wishing to ensure that the city’s population was well rested on their days off.”*

Page 52

*Saeed showed her on his phone images by a French photographer of famous cities at night, lit only “by the glow of the stars.”*

Page 54

*“But one day the signal to every mobile phone in the city simply vanished, turned off as if by flipping a switch. An announcement of the government’s decision was made over television and radio, a temporary anti-terrorism measure, it was said, but with no end date given. Internet connectivity was suspended as well.*

*Nadia did not have a landline at home. Saeed’s landline had not worked in months. Deprived of the portals to each other and to the world provided by their mobile phones, and confined to their apartments by the night-time curfew, Nadia and Saeed, and countless others, felt marooned and alone and much more afraid.”*

Page 55

**Chapter IV**

*“without their phones and access to the internet there was no ready way for them to re-establish contact. It was as if they were bats that had lost the use of their ears, and hence the ability to find things as they flew in the dark. The day after their phone signals died Saeed went to their usual burger joint”*

Page 57

*“The brave man did not have a wristwatch, or a flashlight, so his signal-less phone served both functions”*

Page 63

*“and stood at his post and held his phone”*

Page 64

*“The brave man motioned with the light of his phone.”*

Page 64

**Chapter V**

*“Nadia took her record player and records”*

Page 78

*“Nadia kept her record player and records out of sight in Saeed’s room”*

Page 79

*“A partial calm descended, broken by the activities of drones and aircraft that bombed from the heaven, these networked machines for the most part invisible”*

Page 81

*“Because of the flying robots high above in the darkening sky, unseen but never far from people’s mind in those days”*

Page 83

*“A small quadcopter drone was hovering fifty meters above them now, too quiet to be heard, and relaying its feed to a central monitoring station and also to two different security vehicles, one an unmarked sedan, the other a badged van with grilles on its windows”*

Page 87

*“During this minute the family was also visible in the camera feeds of various tourists’ selfie-taking mobile phones”*

Page 88

*“As soon as they stepped outside they could be seen by the lenses peering down on their city from the sky and from space”*

Page 89

**Chapter VI**

*“What one might hear if one were a communications satellite, or a spymaster tapping into a fiber-optic cable under the sea”*

Page 100

*“When they woke Saeed tried to call his father, but an automated message informed him that his call could not be completed, Nadia tried to connect with people via chat applications and social media, and an acquaintance who had made it to Auckland and another who had reached Madrid replied right away”*

Page 103

*“Nadia and Saeed sat next to each other on the ground and caught up on the news, the tumult in the world, the state of their country, the various routes and destinations migrants were taking and recommending to each other, the tricks one could gainfully employ, the dangers one needed at all costs to avoid”*

Page 103

**Chapter VII**

*“The refrigerator was mostly empty, suggesting no one had eaten from it in some time, and while there were boxes and cans of less perishable food in the cupboards, they did not want accused of stealing, so they brought their own food out of their backpack and boiled two potatoes for breakfast.”*

Page 118-119

*“They clicked on a television to see if they could discover were they were [...] London, and as they watched the television with its intermittently apocalyptic news [...] watched a television in months.”*

Page 119

*“Soon there was a vanload more of them, in full riot gear, and then a car with two more who wore* *[...] what appeared to be submachine guns [...] like soldiers.”*

Page 124

*“In the morning they heard [...] over a commandeered karaoke machine [...] and prayed.”*

Page 125-126

*“Later his daughter [...] their phones a photo of him [...] his flat.”*

Page 128

*“After the riots the talk on the television was of a major operation.”*

Page 132

*“In their small bedrooms [...] using the phone's built-in speaker. It would have been a simple matter* *to stream this music from various websites they had purchased for their phones, and so Nadia* *downloaded pirated versions [...] anything online.”*

Page 133

**Chapter VIII**

*“Mykonos had not been well lit, but electricity had reached everywhere [...] for all.”*

Page 141

*“At night, in the darkness, as drones and helicopters and surveillance baloons [...] as well.”*

Page 142

*“At the borders of their locacity [...] armoured vehicles and communication arrays and robots [...]* *other unknown task.”*

Page 150-151

*“Even more than the fighter planes and the tanks these robots [...] before a snake.”*

Page 151

*“Do things just go black, like a phone screen turning off?”*

Page 163

**Chapter IX**

*“For this part Saeed often had dreams of his father, whose death had been reported to Saeed by a cousin who had recently managed to escape from their city, and with whom Saeed had connected by social media, the cousin had settled near Buenos Aires.”*

Page 170

*“[...] and the tobacco smell reminded him as it always did of his departed father, who would listen with him on his record player to audio recordings is science fiction adventures [...]”*

Page 172

*“She was also, not long after, and to her considerable surprise, a witness to their very first kiss, which she captured, without expecting to, through the lens of her camera, and then deleted, later that night, in a gesture of uncharacteristic sentimentality and respect.”*

Page 175

*“But natives did labour alongside migrants on the work sites, usually as supervisors or as operators of heavy machinery, giant vehicles that resembled mechanized dinosaurs and would lift vast amounts of earth on roll flat hot strips of tarmac or churn concrete with the slow serenity of masticating cow.”*

Page 176

*“They put their lack of conversation down to exhaustion, for by the end of the day they were usually so tired they could barely speak, and phones themselves have the innate power of distancing one from one’s physical surroundings [...]”*

Page 185

*“And we when she suggested one day, out of the blue, under the drone-crossed sky and in the invisible network of surveillance that radiated out from they phones, recordings and capturing and logging everything [...]”*

Page 188-189

**Chapter X**

*“Wireless data signals were strong, and they secured a solar panel and battery set with a* *universal outlet, which accepted plugs from all around the world [...]”*

Page 191

*“For work Nadi hicked down, first through other unpiped and unwired districts like their own, then through those where grid electricity had been installed, and then through those where roads and running rather had reached, and from there she caught a ride on a bus or pickup truck to her place of employment, a food cooperative in a hastily built commercial zone outside Sausalito. “*

Page 192

*“One night one of the tiny drones that kept a watch on their district, part of a swarm, and not larger than a hummingbird, crashed into the transparent plastics flap that served as both door and window of their shanty, and Saeed gathered its motionless iridescent body and showed it to Nadia, and she smiled and said they ought to give it a burial [...]”*

Page 204

**Chapter XI**

*”Some were calling this a new jazz age, and one could walk around Marin and see all kinds of ensembles, humans with humans, humans with electronics, dark skin with light skin with gleaming metal with matt plastic, computerized music and unamplified music and even people who wore masks or hid themselves from view. ”*

Page 216

*”On the evening of their second day apart Saeed called her to ask how she was doing, to inquire if she was safe, and also to hear her voice, and the voice he heard was familiar and strange, and as they spoke he wanted to see her, but he withstood this, and they hung up without arranging a meeting. She called him the following evening, again a brief call, and after that they messaged or spoke to one another on most days, and while their first weekend apart passed separately, on the second weekend they agreed to meet for a walk by the ocean, and they walked to the sound of the wind and the crashing waves and in the hiss of the spray.”*

Page 220

*”While the first shared weekend walk that they skipped was noticed sharply by them both, the second was not so much, and the third almost not at all, and soon they were meeting only once a month or so, and several days would pass in between a message or a call.”*

Page 221

 *”Neither much enjoyed catching unexpected glimpses of their former lover’s new existence online, and so they distanced themselves from each other on social networks, and while they wished to look out for each other, and to keep tabs on each other, staying in touch took a toll on them, serving as an unsettling reminder of a life not lived, and also they grew less worried each for the other, less worried that the other would need them to be happy, and eventually a month went by without any contact, and then a year, and then a lifetime.”*

Page 222