

A FREE COMPANION BOOKLET

What If the Octopuses Were Already Listening?

The real science, the speculative leap, and the quiet question at the heart of *Shadow Frequency* — what does it take for a person to finally believe something they were never supposed to see?

Book Two of the *Shadow Frequency* series · by Tony King

The Science That's Already True

Before *Shadow Frequency* ever asks you to believe in something extraordinary, it starts with something extraordinary that's already documented. Octopuses are, by any honest measure, one of the strangest minds evolution has produced — and most of it isn't fiction at all.

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HEARTS PER OCTOPUS

Two pump blood to the gills, one to the rest of the body. The "body" heart actually stops beating when the animal swims, which is part of why octopuses prefer crawling over open-water swimming — it's exhausting.

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OF AN OCTOPUS'S NEURONS LIVE IN ITS ARMS

Each arm can taste, problem-solve, and react semi-independently of the central brain. Some researchers describe it less as one mind controlling eight limbs and more as nine minds in loose negotiation.

ON THE PAGE

In the novel, marine biologist characters reference "neural networks in their arms" and camouflage so complete it borders on invisibility. Both are drawn directly from real cephalopod biology — chromatophores, the pigment-and-muscle cells in octopus skin, can shift color and texture in under a second, faster than most camera shutters.

Then there's the open question that gives the book its title: electromagnetic and electroreceptive sensing. Sharks and rays are confirmed to sense electrical fields. Whether cephalopods do, and to what degree, is still being studied — which is exactly the kind of gap a novelist is allowed to walk into.

Where the Novel Takes the Leap

Real biology gets the story to the edge of the water. Everything past that is the speculative heart of *Shadow Frequency*: what if cephalopod cognition wasn't just distributed across one animal's arms, but distributed across an entire species?

The book imagines a form of communication its characters can only describe in metaphor — not a signal sent from one point to another, but something more like a shared bloodstream. Information that doesn't travel because it never needed to leave. A connection that exists the way a nervous system exists inside a single body, except the "body" is an ocean and the "organism" is a species.

The vein of blood did not travel. It existed. The way a vein exists entirely within a body... not going anywhere, already everywhere at once, carrying what needs to be carried without being asked.

— SHADOW FREQUENCY

Throughout the book, a recurring nine-minute pulse becomes the characters' first hard evidence that something patterned — not random, not natural noise — is moving through the water and the grid alike. It's the novel's central mystery, and its central act of faith: that a pattern, once noticed, can't be unnoticed.

The Real Subject Isn't the Octopus

Strip away the premise and *Shadow Frequency* is a book about belief — specifically, about what it costs a person to believe something before anyone else is willing to.

Every character in the novel who encounters the truth goes through the same private trial: notice something impossible, doubt it, look for a colleague or an institution who will validate it, get refused, and decide — alone — whether to trust their own eyes anyway. Investigators bury the evidence. Official reports rewrite the impossible into the mundane. Governments choose convenient explanations over true ones. The people who end up right are, almost without exception, the people willing to be alone in being right for a while.

A QUIET THESIS

The book never argues that disbelief is foolish. It argues that the gap between "no one else sees it yet" and "it isn't real" is exactly where most discoveries, and most quiet courage, actually happen.

That's the question the novel leaves you with, long after the plot resolves: not "could this happen," but "what would I need to see, and from whom, before I let myself believe it?"

Ready to hear the pulse for yourself?

Shadow Frequency

The science is real. The pattern is patient. The rest is up to you to believe.

READ THE FULL NOVEL — [TONYKING.MX](https://tonyking.mx)

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