

Lurking: How a Person Became a User Book PDF Download



By:
Joanne McNeil

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What people Say:

Michael

thoughtfully considers how the internet's early anonymous, intimate communities gave way to today's hyper-public, all-pervasive social media platforms. Drawing upon her personal experiences McNeil touches upon the rise and fall of everything from 90s chat rooms to Myspace, before turning to the history of the sites most used now (Facebook, Twitter, Insta, and more). McNeil is careful to avoid romanticizing the past, showing how the internet was never as utopian as early defenders insisted,

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Blair

(3.5) An entertaining, accessible history of the internet, detailing how we all became 'users' and how the early (anonymous, utopian) Web gave way to... whatever it is we have now. It's a lively, personal narrative, sometimes too personal to truly do justice to the user-centred idea, with some political proselytising that doesn't really fit the concept. Though I did love McNeil's openness about how much she hates Facebook, so I can't be too mad. Minor quibbles aside, I found this really readable

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Lurking

Rachel Pollock

I absolutely loved this book of social criticism and history of social media online over the past few decades. Beginning with Usenet and BBS, traveling through AOL and Yahoo groups, Friendster MySpace, blogging, Facebook, Reddit, and more, the author analyzes the changing nature of what it means to be a person online in social spaces. Media these days is full of pearl-clutchers with their hair on fire about how awful, addicting, and abusive various online spaces are, but McNeil reels it

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Highly recommended, especially if you've been online long enough to see prior popular e-spaces go fallow, and particularly if you remember accessing the internet with a dial-up modem on a family computer.

I received an ARC of this title from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

June

Less academic, more anecdotal, an originally constructed, intuitively narrated essay and memoir, since the topics discussed and criticism exhorted are overlapped with The Age of Surveillance Capitalism, so I cannot help comparing two books, to praise the latter to be superior.

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Perhaps I've never been a "dumb fuck" enough to be enmeshed by "Ant Farm of Humanity". Users/readers, with similar experience, may stop short at only feeling a nostalgia endearing or a reality infuriating, not necessarily enlightened or change the behavior, due to some analysis in oblique style, as well as a coverage broad with some only surface skimmed.

With a kindred spirit, I, a user (lurking occasionally), consider the book a good reference on internet history. Her hope that internet should be analogous to library, can never be realized. So while "hell" is fun and persists, wish more users can choose to mitigate the hell effect.

Paolo Latini

Un'interessante storia ragionata degli strumenti tecnologici che hanno cambiato la nostra vita negli ultimi 10-15 anni, che parte dalla preistoria di internet senza web e senza mobilità, passa per i primi ora rudimentali motori di ricerca, aggregatori sociali e forum (Altavista, Geocities, Friendster) per vedere di vicino i colossi con cui conviviamo oggi (Apple, Google, Amazon, Wikipedia, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram). Organizzato per aree tematiche, in ciascuno l'autrice presenta una

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