

Utopia Is Creepy: And Other Provocations

By Nicholas Carr

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Utopia Is Creepy: And Other Provocations By Nicholas Carr


A freewheeling, sharp-shooting indictment of a tech-besotted culture.

With a razor wit, Nicholas Carr cuts through Silicon Valley's unsettlingly cheery vision of the technological future to ask a hard question: Have we been seduced by a lie? Gathering a decade's worth of posts from his blog, *Rough Type*, as well as his seminal essays, *Utopia Is Creepy* offers an alternative history of the digital age, chronicling its roller-coaster crazes and crashes, its blind triumphs, and its unintended consequences.

Carr's favorite targets are those zealots who believe so fervently in computers and data that they abandon common sense. Cheap digital tools do not make us all the next Fellini or Dylan. Social networks, diverting as they may be, are not vehicles for self-enlightenment. And "likes" and retweets are not going to elevate political discourse. When we expect technologies?designed for profit?to deliver a paradise of prosperity and convenience, we have forgotten ourselves. In response, Carr offers searching assessments of the future of work, the fate of reading, and the rise of artificial intelligence, challenging us to see our world anew.

In famous essays including "Is Google Making Us Stupid?" and "Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Privacy," Carr dissects the logic behind Silicon Valley's "liberation mythology," showing how technology has both enriched and imprisoned us?often at the same time. Drawing on artists ranging from Walt Whitman to the Clash, while weaving in the latest findings from science and sociology, *Utopia Is Creepy* compels us to question the technological momentum that has trapped us in its flow. "Resistance is never futile," argues Carr, and this book delivers the proof.

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Editorial Review

Review

"[A] bright, fun, telling book . . . nuanced and satisfying . . . A collection that reminds us that critical thinking is the best way to view the mixed blessings of rampant technology." -*Kirkus Reviews*

"Startlingly prescient." -*New York Times Book Review*

"As the title promises, these are rapid-fire volleys of ideas deceptively designed to engage at a depth greater than 140 characters. By turns wry and revelatory, and occasionally maddening, Carr succeeds in shaking the reader out of screen-zombie complacency." -*Discover*

"*Utopia Is Creepy* ... is full of wry vignettes and articles lampooning the motivated enthusiasm and game-changing promises of Silicon Valley's tech bro elite ... This is an uncompromising portrait of the internet as a vulgar, cramped, unpleasant marketplace run by marketers, surveillance states and people shouting at you." -*New Scientist*

"The prescient Nicholas Carr punches a hole in Silicon Valley cultural hubris with *Utopia Is Creepy*." -*Time*

"This highly browsable collection will hold great appeal for anyone interested in the social aspects of technology, from tech lovers to pre-Internet nostalgists." -*Library Journal*

"The prescient Nicholas Carr punches a hole in Silicon Valley hubris." (Rana Foroohar - Time)

"Carr, a Pulitzer Prize finalist, takes on modern life's short attention spans and worship of the superficial in a . . . rapid-fire volley of ideas deceptively designed to engage at a depth greater than 140 characters. By turns wry and revelatory, and occasionally maddening, Carr succeeds at shaking the reader out of screen-zombie complacency." (Discover Magazine)

"[F]ull of wry vignettes and articles lampooning the motivated enthusiasm and game-changing promises of Silicon Valley's tech bro elite... by turns cute, funny or chilling. And it's more than the sum of its parts." (Sally Adee - New Scientist)

"Carr's best hits for those who missed the last decade of his stream of thoughtful commentary about our love affair with technology and its effect on our relationships." (Richard Cytowic - New York Journal of Books)

"Bright, fun, telling. . . . A collection that reminds us that critical thinking is the best way to view the mixed blessings of rampant technology. A treat for Carr fans." (Kirkus Reviews (Starred Review))

"This highly browsable collection will hold great appeal for anyone interested in the social aspects of technology, from tech lovers to pre-Internet nostalgists." (Library Journal)

About the Author

Nicholas Carr is the author of *The Shallows*, a Pulitzer Prize finalist, and *The Glass Cage*, among other books. Former executive editor of the *Harvard Business Review*, he has written for *The Atlantic*, the *New*

York Times, and *Wired*. He lives in Colorado.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Carrie Freeman:

The book *Utopia Is Creepy: And Other Provocations* make you feel enjoy for your spare time. You can use to make your capable much more increase. Book can to get your best friend when you getting pressure or having big problem together with your subject. If you can make reading a book *Utopia Is Creepy: And Other Provocations* for being your habit, you can get much more advantages, like add your capable, increase your knowledge about some or all subjects. It is possible to know everything if you like available and read a e-book *Utopia Is Creepy: And Other Provocations*. Kinds of book are a lot of. It means that, science e-book or encyclopedia or others. So , how do you think about this publication?

Rachel Robbins:

Nowadays reading books become more and more than want or need but also work as a life style. This reading addiction give you lot of advantages. Advantages you got of course the knowledge the particular information inside the book that improve your knowledge and information. The information you get based on what kind of reserve you read, if you want drive more knowledge just go with education books but if you want sense happy read one along with theme for entertaining like comic or novel. Often the *Utopia Is Creepy: And Other Provocations* is kind of guide which is giving the reader erratic experience.

Teresa Laureano:

Spent a free time for you to be fun activity to do! A lot of people spent their spare time with their family, or their particular friends. Usually they doing activity like watching television, about to beach, or picnic inside park. They actually doing same every week. Do you feel it? Would you like to something different to fill your own free time/ holiday? May be reading a book may be option to fill your no cost time/ holiday. The first thing you ask may be what kinds of guide that you should read. If you want to consider look for book, may be the publication untitled *Utopia Is Creepy: And Other Provocations* can be good book to read. May be it is usually best activity to you.

Annamarie Hernandez:

Why? Because this *Utopia Is Creepy: And Other Provocations* is an unordinary book that the inside of the book waiting for you to snap that but latter it will surprise you with the secret this inside. Reading this book close to it was fantastic author who all write the book in such wonderful way makes the content inside easier to understand, entertaining way but still convey the meaning fully. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this ever again or you going to regret it. This excellent book will give you a lot of advantages than the other book get such as help improving your expertise and your critical thinking means. So , still want to hesitate having that book? If I ended up you I will go to the publication store hurriedly.

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