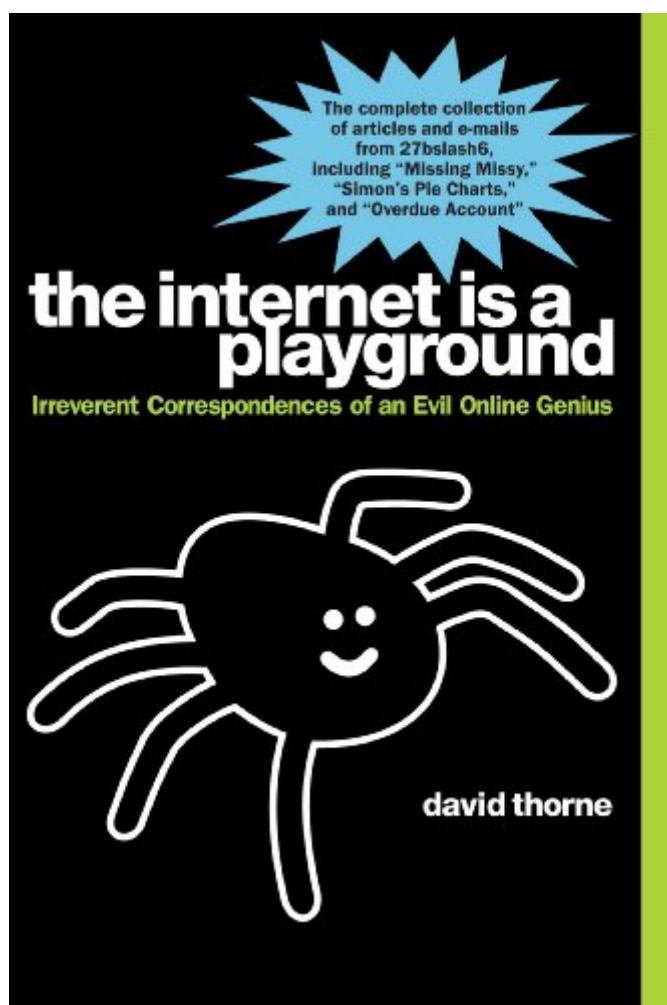


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The Internet Is A Playground: Irreverent Correspondences Of An Evil Online Genius



Synopsis

"There is usually a fine line between genius and insanity, but in this case it has become very blurred. Some of the funniest and most clever writing I have read in years." (Terrance Fielding, WIRED magazine) "I laughed so hard and uncontrollably I could hardly breathe. Reading this on public transport is not a good idea." (Penthouse magazine) From the notorious Internet troublemaker who brought the world the explosively popular "Next Time I'll Spend the Money on Drugs Instead", in which he attempted to pay his chiropractor with a picture he drew of a spider; "Please Design a Logo for Me. With Pie Charts. For Free," which has been described as one of the most passed-on viral e-mails of all time; and, most recently, the staggeringly popular "Missing Missy", which has appeared everywhere from The Guardian to Jezebel to Andrew Sullivan's The Daily Dish, comes this profoundly funny collection of irreverent Internet mischief and comedy. Featuring all of Thorne's viral success, including "Missing Missy", The Internet Is a Playground culls together every article, as well as enough new material, available only in these pages, to keep you laughing-and, indeed, crying-until Thorne's next stroke-of-genius prank. Or hilarious hoax. Or well-publicized almost-stint in jail (really).

Book Information

File Size: 6027 KB

Print Length: 368 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 1585428817

Publisher: TarcherPerigee (April 28, 2011)

Publication Date: April 28, 2011

Sold by:Â Penguin Group (USA) LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B004UZRJXW

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #300,554 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #62

inÂ Books > Humor & Entertainment > Humor > Computers & Internet #153 inÂ Kindle Store >

Customer Reviews

David Thorne is a jerk. Granted, there are a lot of jerks out there making money off of their jerkiness. There are the boys from Jackass. The main characters from It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia and Arrested Development and The League and Archer and Seinfeld and Curb Your Enthusiasm. Tosh.0. The abysmally popular Tucker Max novels. There's even Steve Martin's The Jerk, although he's less a jerk than an idiot. Not that the two aren't often synonymous. That's the real trademark of a jerk worth paying attention to: intelligence. And if Thorne is a jerk, he's at least a smart jerk. This book (mostly) contains email exchanges he's had with co-workers, online roustabouts, and folks who are otherwise just trying to do their jobs (mostly bill collectors). He approaches these communiques with the subtle and absurdist wit of Monty Python channeling John Swartzwelder. Or vice versa. They're a lot funnier if you believe that they're real, and after having read both of his books, I'm inclined to believe. If they're entirely fictional, then I'd be more impressed, although not nearly as amused. Much of the book relies on knowing things about David, such as his coworkers' names and various inside jokes he has with regards to most of them. Certain people -- Simon, Holly, Shannon, Lucius, Thomas -- figure prominently in Thorne's life, but it takes a few reads to figure out how or why, at which point the jokes start to make a lot more sense. Of course, some of his more famous exchanges don't need a whole lot of backstory to work ("Missing Missy" is perhaps his most famous, and for good reason). The book is also peppered with essays that aren't quite as funny as the emails. Written with a random, absurd, kitchen-sink approach, they're pretty much Thorne being as wacky as he can possibly be. At their best, they sound like some of Woody Allen's older stuff from The New Yorker. At their worst, they're repetitive jokes about how dumb he can make the narrator sound. Overall, Thorne's funnier when he's just being mean to what (I hope) are real people. His second book is, I think, much better. For one thing, the ridiculous essays are gone, replaced with true-life tales of both his home life and his experiences with nearly cheating death. They show how well he can find the humor in almost anything without having to resort to bizarre non-sequiturs or wacky nonsense. If you like the wacky nonsense, he's included several picture stories (most about his group of cat friends) that are punchy and hilarious (the best is when the cops pull them over). There are a few pictures of formal notices, letters, and forms that are difficult to read on the Kindle, but they aren't completely illegible. Overall, it's a much better read than the first book, even if it does

make David look even more like a jerk than the first book. I mean, I'd hate to be in his life, but I enjoy reading about others who aren't as fortunate.

Aspire your most resident real life troll friend or lover to be the best that they can be at their craft. What's in this book seems to be what's found on David's website, but having it in print offers easier access to those of us that are computer illiterate or otherwise lazy. Thank you, David, for making the world a better place, albeit much more confusing that it needs to be.

I got to Mr. Thorne's work after stumbling into the neighbor floodlight email series by chance. I laughed so hard I cried. And it was in the morning. And we all know in the morning there's only sex, bacon or sleep that get our interest. I was actually upset that I got it in the morning, because my mind was dizzy and laughing like this hurt a bit. I thought this kind of laughter was reserved for special moments in life, when you find some fantastic movie scenes or find yourself tickled by some crazy situation. His writing is absolute madness. Not only is this the funniest thing I've ever read, but it's soooo well written... Impeccable. I adore it !! can't put it down although I will really try to, because I want to save some for other days as well, even if I have his other book too. I need this. Nobody's ever made me laugh like this. Especially not through writing. And I am joyful, I am. And always in search of good humor. David Thorne is brilliant, an absolute gem, and I am extremely grateful for getting to experience such brilliance. Caution: Don't read this while you eat or drink !

Dry, witty, irreverent sarcasm is Thorne's superpower and he turns it on full force here. I laughed when I read these the first time, and I laugh just as hard every time I read them. Please, never stop writing, David Thorne!

Sometime ago, I came across a link to David Thorne's website. I read one of his blogs and could not stop. I laughed until it hurt. Promises of more, unblogged hilarity caused me to buy this book. (Plus, I thought, why not send some bucks in this guy's direction. It was the least I could do to thank him for the laughs.) It was a little disappointing to discover the 'additional' material was not really very funny. In my opinion, the funniest stuff is the correspondence directed to co-workers, neighbors, billers, and others who have done him wrong. Sadly, I'd already read the funniest stuff on his webpage. As such, this book took me forever to get through. I found myself picking it up and putting it down. I don't lament purchasing the book and am still trying to decide if I want to keep it or pass it along.

You will laugh. A lot. How does he get away with it? This book is a must need for any David Thorne fan. I bought it for my daughter before she went off to college. We used to love reading all the emails on his website. Now you can get them in a handy book form. Love it!

This, and "I'll Go Home Then, It's Warm and Has Chairs" came in the mail today. I immediately put down book four of Song of Ice and Fire (if one more person spoils the story I'm going to pummel them!) and began to read this. By the 50th page, I had to put the book down because I thought I was going to vomit I was laughing so uncontrollably. David Thorne is a sadistic comic genius. I envy his courage and his uncaring as to if he burns a bridge with each character. Maybe, someday I will have the courage to have the gall to speak to inconsiderate people the way he does, but, until then I will just enjoy his work.

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