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Big Disconnect: The Story Of Technology And Loneliness (Contemporary Issues)



Synopsis

Smart phones and social media sites may be contemporary fixations, but using technology to replace face-to-face interactions is not a new cultural phenomenon. Throughout our history, intimacy with machines has often supplanted mutual human connection. This book reveals how consumer technologies changed from analgesic devices that soothed the loneliness of a newly urban generation to prosthetic interfaces that act as substitutes for companionship in modern America. The history of this transformation helps explain why we use technology to mediate our connections with other human beings instead of seeking out face-to-face contact. Do electronic interfaces receive most of our attention to the detriment of real interpersonal communication? Why do sixty million Americans report that isolation and loneliness are major sources of unhappiness? The author provides many insights into our increasingly artificial relationships and a vision for how we can rediscover genuine community and human empathy. From the Trade Paperback edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Giles speaks the truth of the tech world, the "new world we live in" I felt or experienced much of

what he writes about...therefore I validate his book...his book is well written, easy to understand. While there's many features of tech that is good, but many that are not. It's necessary to find a balance with most of the tech ...while difficult to do that. "good common sense should prevail.

This is a very interesting and enlightening book that helps me understand who/why we are the way we are these days. I highly recommend it.

Giles Slade paints a dark but accurate picture of a contemporary social landscape that is somewhat scary with our personal interactions. I have personally noticed these trends Slade articulates this situation well but the discovery of how to survive and thrive in this new world is for us to create. We can settle for what looks to be our fate, or develop our own networks that offer us the satisfaction of the life well lived. This is a good mid-point for our discoveries.

Too much historical fact. I was expecting less history and more sociological perspective. The message is very relevant to today's disconnect.

It arrived quick and was signed by Giles Slade himself! A nice bonus to add to my collection.

It is interesting in that some technological history is reviewed, but the overall thesis that these things---including automobiles and telephones make us loners is exaggerated. If anything, it is the placing of our houses in suburbia and exurbia that make us less likely to contact our neighbors.

Good look at modern society. I recommend this to anyone interested in history, because like history this book helps piece together how we got to where we are today. But really, we must stop having such a "connectedness" to technology and start being more connected to real life.

I see some of my process and dissatisfactions explained well, with a long historical context. Enlightening. Some interesting digressions. The evolution of mistrust, urban people avoidance, solitary music listening, celebrity making, marketing, consumer personality, personal growth as self marketing, all worthwhile topics. Well titled.

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