



We, Robots: Staying Human in the Age of Big Data

By Curtis White



We, Robots: Staying Human in the Age of Big Data By Curtis White

In the tradition of Jaron Lanier's *You Are Not a Gadget*, a rousing, sharply argued—and, yes, inspiring!—reckoning with our blind faith in technology

Can technology solve all our problems? Despite overwhelming evidence to the contrary, many of our most famous journalists, pundits, and economists seem to think so. According to them, “intelligent machines” and big data will free us from work, educate our children, transform our environment, and even make religion more user-friendly. This is the story they’re telling us: that we should stop worrying and love our robot future.

But just because you tell a story over and over again doesn’t make it true. Curtis White, one of our most brilliant and perceptive social critics, knows all about the danger of a seductive story, and in *We, Robots*, he tangles with the so-called thinkers who are convinced that the future is rose-colored and robotically enhanced.

With tremendous erudition and a punchy wit, White argues that we must be skeptical of anyone who tries to sell us on technological inevitability. And he gives us an alternative set of stories: taking inspiration from artists as disparate as Sufjan Stevens, Lars von Trier, and François Rabelais, White shows us that by looking to art, we can imagine a different kind of future.

No robots required.

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Editorial Review

Review

“Discursive, scholarly, and crackling with intensity...White walks it like he talks it; *We, Robots* is both erudite and irreverent, and humor is as much his method as it is his message.” —**NPR**

“Insightful...[Curtis White] joins Evgeny Morozov and Jaron Lanier on the front line of critics challenging assumptions about the benefits of technology.” —**The Washington Post**

“Spot on...A soulful swipe at science...If a word can sum up what he is for, it is "kindness."”—**The Independent**

“Our dream of a society where robots do our dirty work might be a dystopia for all but the privileged few. Curtis White calls for a more empathetic and reasoned approach.” —**Bustle**

Praise for Curtis White

“The most inspiringly wicked social critic of the moment.” —**Will Blythe, Elle**

“Absolutely indispensable.” —**Slavoj Žižek**

“A master of bewitchments, parodies, and dazzling tropes.” —**Paul Auster**

“Splendidly cranky.” —**Molly Ivins**

“Cogent, acute, beautiful, and true.” —**David Foster Wallace**

From the Hardcover edition.

About the Author

CURTIS WHITE is the author of, most recently, the acclaimed *The Science Delusion: Asking the Big Questions in a Culture of Easy Answers*, and of the international bestseller *The Middle Mind: Why Americans Don't Think for Themselves*.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Nathan Barnes:

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