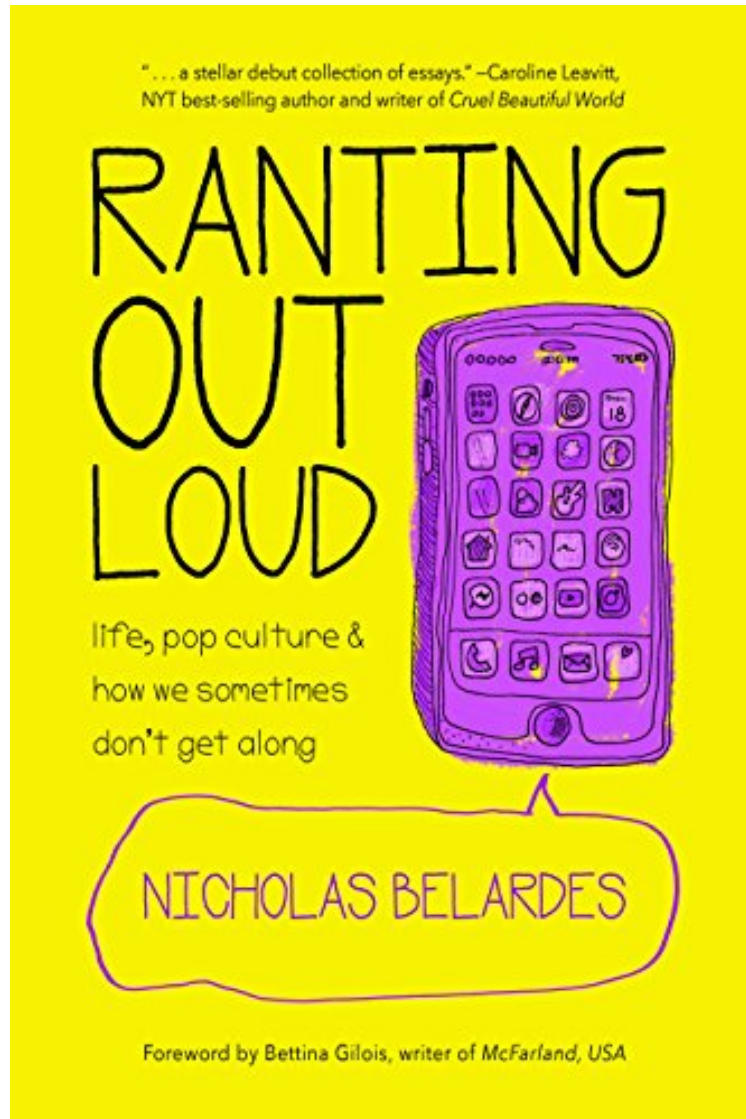


[Download ebook] Ranting Out Loud: Life, Pop Culture How We Sometimes Dont Get Along

Ranting Out Loud: Life, Pop Culture How We Sometimes Dont Get Along

Nicholas Belardes

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Nicholas Belardes : Ranting Out Loud: Life, Pop Culture How We Sometimes Dont Get Along before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ranting Out Loud: Life, Pop Culture How We Sometimes Dont Get Along:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. More than a RantBy Art101Belardes discusses his life long obsession with pop culture and in turn asks us to reflect upon the pop culture we have consumed through our lives. For

many of us that grew up in the 60's we'll be able to relate to the stories told here. From teenage DD sessions to Star Wars and on to the new consumption of Netflix series. Do we have a love/hate relationship with pop culture? Belardes shows us that like any strong relationship, it will have its ups and downs - but hate is too strong a word. Each story here provides a different way of looking at the popular culture that surrounds us and Belardes uses his past and present to remind us all that pop culture is a part of us. It is healthy? Is it all connected? How is it evolving? It's easy to deride and mock pop culture for what it is, but when we are asked to embrace and use it, we might start getting more out of and being a little pickier about we consume. Read these enjoyable rants (and listen to the arguments behind them) and you just might get a little more out of that next series from Netflix.

Cheeky and Geeky By Patricia J. Wonderly
Nicholas Belardes' "Ranting Out Loud" is a delightful collection of essays commenting on social media, pop culture, and the gaming life. That in itself is reason enough to recommend the book. However, the true nuggets of Ranting Out Loud lie in his underlying encouragement to writers, artists, and creators of all types. Among my favorite essays in this collection are My Very Personal Explanation Why Harry Potter and the Cursed Child is Trash, and How Stranger Things Renewed my Obsession with Dungeons and Dragons. These are laugh out loud looks at two iconic pop giants. But my favorite essay is A Layman's Guide to When She Asks about Star Trek. As a serious binge-watcher of Star Trek:TNG, I was caught up in Belardes' gentle eavesdropping of the conversation between two fellow coffee shop customers. I was transported to sit across from him in the coffee shop as he listened and retold the story instead of working on what he'd intended. I highly recommend this essay to anyone willing to look at their geeky nerdiness with a little grain of salt.

Eye Opening By Lisa C. Tener
Not a pop culture person myself, I enjoyed this glimpse into several worlds from Advanced DD to watchers of Breaking Bad, I found it intriguing, humorous and enjoyable. And not so different from my little fringe of existence that has me having avoided Breaking Bad and some of the pop cultural icons of our time.

In his debut essay collection, Nicholas Belardes uses today's pop culture and self-deprecating humor as a filter for discussing personal stories of family, writing, gender, art, and race. He dives into the Harry Potter play and discusses his cursed childhood home. He tells coming-of-age tales of Dungeons Dragons and blames Stranger Things for jogging those hilarious memories. In great detail he describes how working for a cheesy Las Vegas animation company meant everything to a relationship with his dad. And he presents an unpopular artistic argument for how Tyrion Lannister of Game of Thrones may have ruined his life as a writer (not really). He gives you Star Wars and its weird connections to the Catcher in the Rye (as well as artistic expectations in education). In an essay about race he presents virtual universes, cowboy images of his racist dad, and odd choices of identity in Ready Player One. He even provides a layman's guide for how to introduce someone to Star Trek while at the same time telling us that what we mimic might not be good for us. He also discusses miscommunication in the world in relation to writing the first original Twitter novel, Small Places. And finally, he describes how American numbness negatively affects the world of art. Belardes presents a side of our humanity working in tandem with pop culture. It isn't always pretty, though it is hopeful, sometimes funny, and full of promise.

A refreshingly honest love-hate letter to pop culture. Nicholas Belardes doesn't try to pretend that our tech and media obsessions can either be reduced to guilty pleasures or influential icons of our time. Instead, with sharp and brutal introspection, he delves into what the shows, movies, novels, politics and tweets that consume him say about him, and causes us to do the same. Natalia Sylvester, author of Chasing the Sun. . . reads like a love letter to pop culture I couldn't get enough. Belardes' essays are addictive: you finish one and can't wait to start the next. The snappy, fast-paced writing uses pop culture as a lens to look at everything: family, writing, jobs, gender, and ultimately what it means to be human. I binged on this book like it was a new season of Game of Thrones.

Lara Zielin, author of The Waiting Sky and The Implosion of Aggie Winchester
Nicholas Belardes has incisively given the world a stellar debut collection of essays, Caroline Leavitt, NYT best-selling author of Cruel Beautiful World, This is Tomorrow, and Pictures of You
Many of my favorite books are actually rants. On the Road was Kerouac's expression of being mad to live. Lord of the Rings was an elegantly elven diatribe against the tree-killing machines of war and industry, along with being the best-ever take-down of Nazis. Joan Didion's Slouching Towards Bethlehem is a gorgeous screed of Sixties counterculture. I could go on and that is part of the point they DO go on and thank god for that because all ideas can't be expressed in 140 characters. Nicholas Belardes rants with the best of them and Didion better watch her back because he, too, has culture in his crosshairs. Belardes writes with a sharp eye and an even sharper pen. Covering cinema, pop obsessions, history and the not so United States, he is an articulate witness to the strange, stubborn and intractable truths of our time. Brenda Knight, author of Women of the Beat Generation
David Foster Wallace meets Hunter S. Thompson in this ode to the triumphs and defeats of pop culture. Belardes might be the most informed, intelligent and hilariously iconoclastic guide we'll ever have to help us bridge the digital divide. Who else dares talk about Dostoevsky in the same breath as Winona Ryder? In Belardes' nimble mental meanderings, we find Rilke alongside Sam the Mattress Man, Knossos alongside Las Vegas. Even as he is telling us everything we always wanted to know about Holden Caulfield and Luke Skywalker but were afraid to ask, Belardes' underlying message becomes

increasingly clear: art has been dumbed down, artifice is everywhere, and we no longer know what real is. We. Cant. Feel. Belardes says, but hes no misanthrope, and in these essays, we find ourselves in the astute and tender company of someone who loves the world. Kim Barnes, author of *In the Kingdom of Men* About the Author Nicholas Belardes has worked as a writer, screenwriter, even an animation writer. His work has been talked about across North America and Europe, including *Wired Magazine*, *Coast to Coast A.M.*, *U.K. Guardian*, *The Telegraph*, *Christian Science Monitor*, and countless other newspapers, radio stations and TV appearances. His work has appeared in leading news sources like *CNN.com*, *ABC News*, even in American journals *Carve Magazine*, *Pithead Chapel*, *The Weeklings*, and others. Hes literally been exposed to an audience of millions, which includes his social media projects that not only went viral more than six years ago but are still being talked about in major media and colleges. Bettina Gilois has won the *Humanitas Prize*, and *Black Reels Best Screenplay* for *Glory Road*. She has written for *Jerry Bruckheimer*, and in addition to writing books and screenplays, she blogs about art and life for the *Huffington Post*.