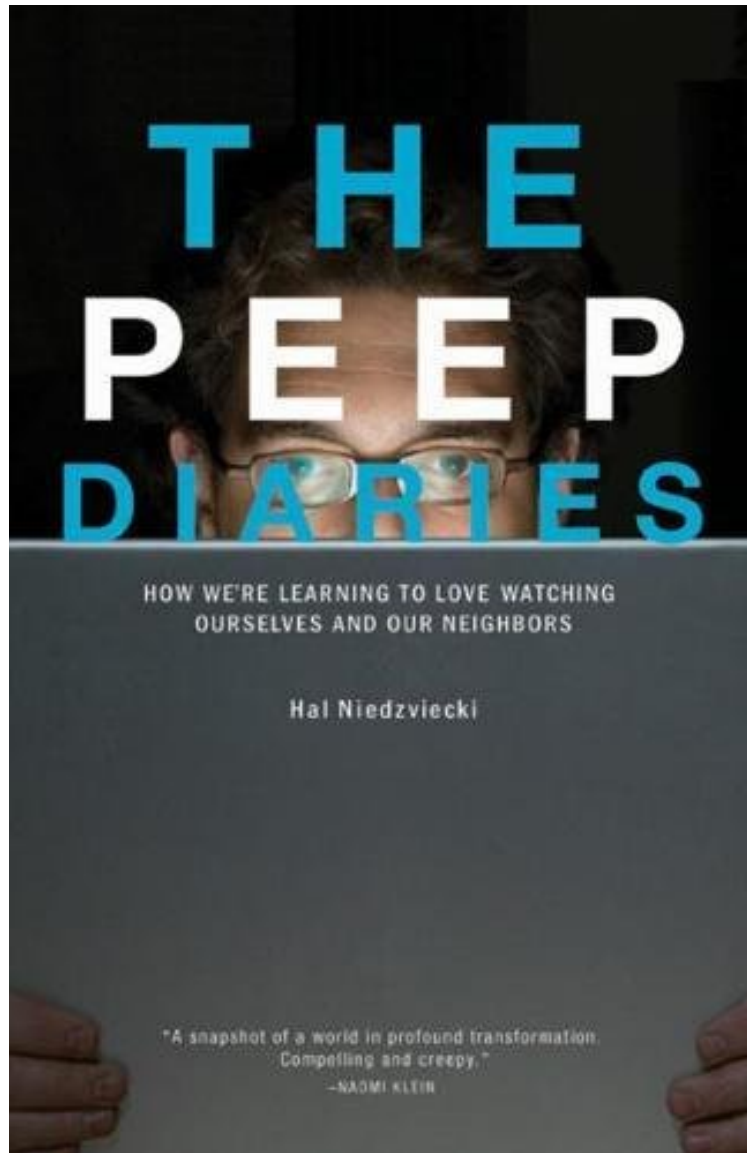


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## The Peep Diaries: How We're Learning to Love Watching Ourselves and Our Neighbors

*Hal Niedzviecki*

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**Hal Niedzviecki : The Peep Diaries: How We're Learning to Love Watching Ourselves and Our Neighbors** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Peep Diaries: How We're Learning to Love Watching Ourselves and Our Neighbors:

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following review helpful. great!!By Customergreat!!0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Peeping as a way of life in contemporary societyBy Dan PodjedGreat topic, great book! Well written, lots of information, important theme: how we are transforming into a mixture of voyeurs and exhibitionist in our hyper-connected society.

We have entered the age of "peep culture": a tell-all, show-all, know-all digital phenomenon that is dramatically altering notions of privacy, individuality, security, and even humanity. Peep culture is reality TV, YouTube, MySpace, Facebook, Twitter, over-the-counter spy gear, blogs, chat rooms, amateur porn, surveillance technology, Dr. Phil, Borat, cell phone photos of your drunk friend making out with her ex-boyfriend, and more. In the age of peep, core values and rights we once took for granted are rapidly being renegotiated, often without our even noticing. With hilarious, exasperated acuity, social critic Hal Niedzviecki dives into peep, starting his own video blog, joining every social network that will have him, monitoring the movements of his toddler, selling his secrets on Craigslist, hiring a private detective to investigate him, spying on his neighbors, trying out for reality TV shows, and stripping for the pleasure of a web audience he isn't even sure exists. Part travelogue, part diary, part meditation and social history, *The Peep Diaries* explores a rapidly emerging digital phenomenon that is radically changing not just the entertainment landscape, but also the firmaments of our culture and society. *The Peep Diaries* introduces the arrival of the age of peep culture and explores its implications for entertainment, society, sex, politics, and everyday life. Mixing first-rate reporting with sociological observations culled from the latest research, this book captures the shift from pop to peep and the way technology is turning gossip into documentary and Peeping Toms into entertainment journalists. Packed with stranger-than-fiction true-life characters and scenarios, *The Peep Diaries* reflects the aspirations and confusions of the growing number of people willing to trade the details of their private lives for catharsis, attention, and notoriety. "Take a peek at *The Peep Diaries*, an erudite (but not too erudite) look at the culture that Facebook, Twitter, et al. have spawned." *Real Simple* "It's a great read; it mixes frank interviews with people pushing the boundaries of voyeurism and exhibitionism, alongside a bracing critique of the social context that got us into peep culture and the forces that now exploit our participation in it. *The Globe and Mail*" "A snapshot of a world in profound transformation. Compelling and creepy." Naomi Klein, author of *The Shock Doctrine* and *No Logo* "If you've found yourself obsessively posting to Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube and becoming a little uneasy about how it's changing your life you should read this book. *The Peep Diaries* is a superb investigation into how technology is shifting the landscape of our private lives." Clive Thompson, *Wired* magazine columnist "A cogent and penetrating analysis. I certainly hope, as *The Peep Diaries* suggests, that the cruel spectacle we're witnessing on the tube most evenings actually holds some hope for a more loving future." Douglas Rushkoff, author of *Media Virus* and *Life, Inc.* Hal Niedzviecki is the founder of *Broken Pencil* magazine and has published numerous works of social commentary and fiction, including *Hello Im Special: How Individuality Became the New Conformity* and *Look Down, This Is Where It Must Have Happened*, which is also published by City Lights Publishers.

From Publishers Weekly Ubiquitous video technology and the Internet have ushered in a peep culture that makes us all either or simultaneously exhibitionists or voyeurs, according to this eye-opening study. In good participant-observer fashion, Niedzviecki (*Hello, I'm Special*) dives into our mania for observing and revealing pseudo-secret personal information: he starts a blog, applies to reality television shows, does video surveillance around his house and slips a GPS tracking device into his wife's car. He's content to merely interview, rather than join, the middle-aged couples who post their amateur porn online. He argues instead that peep culture reprises an ancient impulse to bond through the sharing of intimacies, but worries that our digital version of village gossip and primate grooming is a weak and fraudulent foundation for community (out of his 700-odd Facebook friends and blog readers, only one showed up for his offline party). Niedzviecki's smart mixture of reportage and reflection avoids alarmism and hype while capturing the strange power of our urge to see and be seen. (June) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.