Geeks: How Two Lost Boys Rode the Internet out of Idaho

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Geeks: How Two Lost Boys Rode the Internet out of Idaho

Posted on March 1, 2002 by Editor


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With good luck, bright geeks may mature into hackers and ascribe to the “Hacker Ethic,” the subject of the other book review this month. In the meantime however, it isn’t easy being a geek as Katz, a writer for “Rolling Stone,” “Wired,” and other hip publications, illustrates in this volume on an American outcast subculture. Geeks are the lost boys of middle school and high school—smart kids, seemingly bred by the Internet, with stunning, multi-tasking technical savvy, and a dearth of social skills. They don’t usually have many friends, don’t play sports as a rule, may be ho-hum students except in classes they relate to, and are never, ever going to “fit-in.” They are treated badly—by fellow students and by teachers, who don’t much like them, as they rarely know or care how to be teacher-pleasers. If they find each other, or if a teacher can throw them a lifeline, they may escape the brutalities of the school system without too many permanent scars, but frequently they aren’t that lucky. Author Katz received countless e-mails from geeks across the country confirming shared experiences and anguished adolescences, and it started him on a journey with two lost boys “who rode the Internet out of Idaho.” Friends Jesse and Eric were 19 years old when Katz met them. They came from working class homes and never seriously considered going to college after high school. This is the story of how hard it was for these clearly different kids to ever get to the age of 19—and there are some astonishing revelations about that—but it’s also about how geekhood plays out in life after high school. Whether geeks go on to college or step directly into the work world, they’re liable to find that they have ascended in the adult world. They’re still different, and people still may not really like them, but people really need them. They have power, and they probably have a chip on their shoulders—it’s an interesting social dynamic in the abstract, and worth thinking about. But the book also breaks through to the personal level, sucking us into the surprisingly compelling stories of Jesse and Eric.
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ONE THOUGHT ON “GEEKS: HOW TWO LOST BOYS RODE THE INTERNET OUT OF IDAHO”

Ricky Glidden
on January 30, 2014 at 5:45 PM said:

of course like your website however you need to check the spelling on several of your posts. A number of them are rife with spelling problems and I to find it very troublesome to inform the reality on the other hand I will certainly come back again.