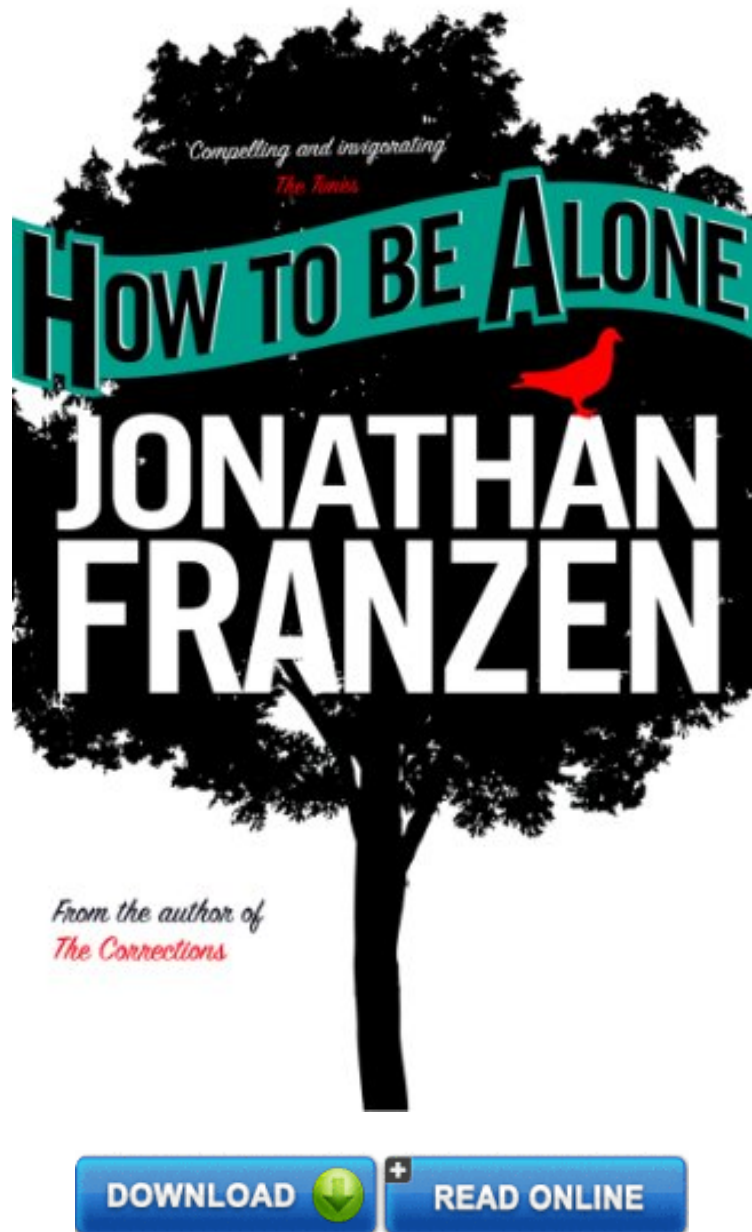


(Read free ebook) How to be Alone

How to be Alone

Von Jonathan Franzen

*Download PDF | ePub | DOC | audiobook | ebooks



Produktinformation -Verkaufsrank: #142124 in eBooksVerffentlicht am: 2014-03-27Erscheinungsdatum: 2014-03-27File Name: B00I7JRJXM | File size: 21.Mb

Von Jonathan Franzen : How to be Alone before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised How to be Alone:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen35 von 39 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Sachliche und warmherzige ErleuchtungVon Rainer LingmannEin Einstieg, wie ein Paukenschlag. Franzen erhlrt ein schn verpacktes Valentine-Paket von seiner Mutter, rosa Grukarte, zwei Schokoriegel, ein Drahtherzchen - und der Bericht von der Gehirnautopsie seines Vaters. Der folgende, biographische Bericht ber dessen schleichend

fortschreitende Alzheimererkrankung illustriert drastisch und an einem buchstäblich pathologischen Beispiel, was wirkliches Alleinsein bedeuten kann: völlige Trennung von der Außenwelt, bis der körperliche Tod nur noch der letzte, unbedeutende Schritt ist. Das alles wird immer persönlich, aber nie zu intim oder gar voyeuristisch geschildert. Der erste Essay setzt sofort den Maßstab, an dem sich alle folgenden Texte messen lassen müssen - und können! Franzens Thema ist das Streben nach Alleinsein, aber nicht nach Einsamkeit. Der gleichzeitige Wunsch, eins zu sein mit der Welt, beim sicheren Gefühl, anders zu sein: "I want to be the same but different." Und Franzen beschreibt Lesen als Ausweg aus diesem Gefühlsdilemma: "It's a group of two, the faithful writer and the trusting reader. We're different but the same." Dieses Buch ist eine genauso sachliche wie warmherzige Erleuchtung für alle, die dieses Gefühl kennen und die sich deshalb in Büchern wohl fühlen. Endlich fühle ich mich verstanden und weiß, warum ich mich neben einer in der U-Bahn neben mir telefonierenden Frau unbehaglich fühle. Endlich weiß ich, warum ich nicht für Bekannte oder Freunde arbeiten möchte. Und schließlich fühle ich mich verstanden, wenn mir Fragen wichtiger als Antworten sind. Und vor allem weiß ich, dass ich nicht alleine bin im Wunsch nach Alleinsein. 1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Great read! Von TJBW whilst reading *Freedom and The Corrections* I became more curious about Franzen and ordered this book. *How To Be Alone* will enlighten readers curious about Franzen. The essay "Mr. Difficult" is a certainly a little difficult but worth the extra effort. Franzen admits to this writing style in his comments about an April 1996 Harpers essay saying - an essay "that began with a five-thousand -word complaint of such painful stridency and tenuous logic that even I couldn't quite follow it." The edited version appears re-titled in this book as "Why Bother" - of which Franzen comments - "Although it's still very long, my hope is that it's less taxing to read now, more straight forward in its movement." Pleasingly, some of the more worthy insights are simply simple. Like this one from "Mr. Difficult": "Fiction is the most fundamental human art. Fiction is storytelling, and our reality arguably consists of the stories we tell about ourselves." This insight perfectly describes the first essay in this book - "My Father's Brain." Of course one can't help but find parallels between the Lambert's and Franzen's family. Franzen further comments about his book by saying, "I intend this book, in part, as a record of a movement away from an angry and frightened isolation toward an acceptance - even a celebration - of being a reader and a writer." Franzen proves that he is not alone in his search of *How To Be Alone*. 14 von 17 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. He is incredible... Von T. Stephan I recognized Franzen in Jan 2004 by reading his "Corrections". I didn't know anything about the book before, but after reading it through in a week, for me it was incredible. Now with this high level I connected to Franzen, I must say that his essays (most of them) in *How to be alone* are far more better. He describes certain problems of the American society very precise, connects them to his history, tries to analyze why the people make mistakes... I can recommend this book for people, who like to read system-critic book!!!!

Kurzbeschreibung Passionate, independent-minded nonfiction from the international bestselling author of *The Corrections*. Jonathan Franzen's *Freedom* was the literary sensation of 2010, whilst *The Corrections* was the best-loved and most written-about novel the previous decade. *How to be Alone*, is a collection of the personal essays and painstaking, often humorous reportage that have earned Franzen a wide and loyal readership, including what has come to be known as 'The Harper's Essay', Franzen's controversial 1996 look at the fate of the novel. From the sex-advice industry to the way a supermax prison works, from his father's struggle with Alzheimer's disease to a rueful account of Franzen's brief tenure as an Oprah Winfrey author, each piece wrestles with Franzen's familiar themes: the erosion of civic life and private dignity, and the hidden persistence of loneliness, in postmodern imperial America. These collected essays record what Franzen calls 'a movement away from an angry and frightened isolation toward an acceptance even a celebration of being a reader and a writer.' They voice a wary distrust of the claims of technology and psychology, the love-hate relationship with consumerism, and the subversive belief in the tragic shape of the individual life that help make Franzen one of the sharpest, toughest-minded, and most entertaining social critics at work today..deNovelist Jonathan Franzen's *How to Be Alone* is a collection of 14 essays that take the preservation of individuality and complexity in a noisy and distracting mass culture as its main theme. Franzen sees himself, rightly, as one of a dying breed of reader/writers coming to terms with the fact that his world (or at least his audience) is shrinking and struggles with the temptation to give in to the techno world for the sake of health and happiness. We're told that "individuality and complexity" is the main theme but in truth the book is much more interesting than it sounds. The opening essay entitled "My Father's Brain" is a fascinating and deeply poignant story about Alzheimer's disease that begins with a letter--sent by his mother--containing the autopsy of his father's brain. Instead of a self-regarding piece of "feel-my-pain" sentimentality Franzen describes in minute detail the mechanics of the disease itself, the history of its discovery and its effect on his father's personality and behaviour. It's also about the history of a marriage; a reflection on our need to think of ourselves and our loved ones as a distinct personality and the corresponding need to resist the idea--suggested to us by the progress of the disease--that personality is the function of a lump of grey meat: the brain. It ends with Franzen's post-humorous discovery of his father's letters that reveal his secret attempt to stay in the light through force of will. Besides marriage, memory, disease and death, Franzen also

deals with subjects as different as smoking, the sex-advice industry, the workings of maximum security prisons, the fall of the Chicago Mail service and his brief tenure as an Oprah Winfrey author. The collection also includes a revised version of the famously misunderstood "Harper's Essay"--Franzen's 1996 look at the fate of the novel. Those expecting a series of naval-gazing, deadly earnest essays from a snobbish elitist who turns his nose up at popular culture and the benefits of electronic communication should think again. What's refreshing and unusual about these essays is that they are serious, funny, poignant, unpredictable and unashamedly elitist--but not in the way you might expect. --Larry Brown.co.uk

Novelist Jonathan Franzen's *How to Be Alone* is a collection of 14 essays that take the preservation of individuality and complexity in a noisy and distracting mass culture as its main theme. Franzen sees himself, rightly, as one of a dying breed of reader/writers coming to terms with the fact that his world (or at least his audience) is shrinking and struggles with the temptation to give in to the techno world for the sake of health and happiness. We're told that "individuality and complexity" is the main theme but in truth the book is much more interesting than it sounds. The opening essay entitled "My Father's Brain" is a fascinating and deeply poignant story about Alzheimer's disease that begins with a letter--sent by his mother--containing the autopsy of his father's brain. Instead of a self-regarding piece of "feel-my-pain" sentimentality Franzen describes in minute detail the mechanics of the disease itself, the history of its discovery and its effect on his father's personality and behaviour. It's also about the history of a marriage; a reflection on our need to think of ourselves and our loved ones as a distinct personality and the corresponding need to resist the idea--suggested to us by the progress of the disease--that personality is the function of a lump of grey meat: the brain. It ends with Franzen's post-humous discovery of his father's letters that reveal his secret attempt to stay in the light through force of will. Besides marriage, memory, disease and death, Franzen also deals with subjects as different as smoking, the sex-advice industry, the workings of maximum security prisons, the fall of the Chicago Mail service and his brief tenure as an Oprah Winfrey author. The collection also includes a revised version of the famously misunderstood "Harper's Essay"--Franzen's 1996 look at the fate of the novel. Those expecting a series of naval-gazing, deadly earnest essays from a snobbish elitist who turns his nose up at popular culture and the benefits of electronic communication should think again. What's refreshing and unusual about these essays is that they are serious, funny, poignant, unpredictable and unashamedly elitist--but not in the way you might expect. --Larry Brown