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ALONE
TOGETHER

WHY WE EXPECT **MORE** from
TECHNOLOGY and **LESS**
from EACH OTHER

SHERRY TURKLE

Sherry Turkle

Alone Together: Why We Expect More from Technology and Less from Each Other

A groundbreaking book by probably the most essential thinkers of our period shows how technology is warping our social lives and our inner ones Technology is among the most architect of our intimacies. MIT professor Sherry Turkle argues that as technology ramps up, our emotional lives ramp down. Predicated on a huge selection of interviews and with a new introduction taking us to the present day, Alone Collectively describes changing, unsettling human relationships between friends, lovers, and families. Online, we fall prey to the illusion of companionship, gathering thousands of Twitter and Facebook close friends, and complicated tweets and wall posts with authentic conversation. But this relentless connection prospects to a deep solitude.

"What do we gain and reduce in adopting fresh technology? Yet on the other, I was shocked how badly you could misrepresent a reserve in just a few sentences. Five Stars Very inciteful continue reading robotics and public media use. It's just an area for further research. Her writing, although not directly citing their function, continues in the tradition of Marshall McLuhan and Neil Postman in asking questions like, "How do new technologies impact their users? In the same type of believed, Turkle doesn't spend enough time on how culture might affect technology make use of. The thought of robot companions never entered my mind until scanning this and the potential ethical problems should be considered."Alone Together is divided into two parts. The first looks at companionable software and hardware and argues that we lose something relationally essential and meaningful when we create machines to substitute for people in providing care and companionship, especially for children and older people. when we "place everything out there," that "everything" is in some way trivialized. Turkle argues that devices cannot "feel" feelings like humans but rather can only imitate their expression to arouse feelings in us. She asks what that overall performance of emotion really means compared to the human, embodied expression of emotion, especially empathy. Turkle claim that we should be concerned when we come to choose the organization of technology compared to that of people so when we depend on technology to assuage our adverse emotions of guilt, loneliness, etc. Three Stars Not super relevant to current machine/children interaction A warning for future years? Turkle sees the worthiness of new connective systems and discusses her integration of those technologies into her relationship with her daughter. Turkle, a professor at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), lives in an environment on the technical cutting edge that's permeated by robotics to a larger extent compared to the environments where many live. I suspect the same will become true for most readers. I came across this portion of the book even more meaningful compared to the first, as the dialogue on robotics didn't touch my life personally much.The next section of Alone Together analyzes how texting has replaced in-person communication and phone calls in lots of contexts. Turkle points out that texting promotes short factual exchanges but not deeper conversation, allowing texters to create barriers to conversation and share selectively. Also, Turkle explores Facebook and interpersonal media generally as spheres for identification development that allow for some experimentation but that also trigger intense nervousness for users because they worry about how exactly others will see them on the web and how that vision will impact real-globe interactions. Facebook becomes for many a place of overall performance, selective sharing, and tension, instead of of depth and meaningful conversation. I see related assumptions in education, where check ratings are equated with learning, and students' visible activity in class is certainly equated with "engagement.) and how those lives offer areas of escape from real life. "I'm kind of boring. The discussion is disturbing and hit home for me personally, as I know people who spent years playing WoW.Alone Together's general theme is that people need to consciously consider the consequences of new technologies on our lives and choose what you want to adopt, rather than simply accepting systems without thinking. Her paraphrase of "Flow" by Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi might be the most shallow and dishonest paraphrase I've ever seen in my life.The book's second section explores the way the always connected world affects interpersonal relationships. Are they to be left with just robots as their companions? I believe that's an important discussion, which explains why I highly recommend Turkle's function. The siren music of 'multitasking', a trait that never quite works aswell as its cracked up to become, causes people to compromise important conversation that truly requires their full attention. Among the pitfalls of ethnography as a means of understanding the globe is that it always relies on small but deeply-studied sets of

people. So on the main one hand, I cannot call it actually damaging to her primary argument in any sense. For instance, in the section on robotics, Turkle focuses seriously on her university, MIT, and its work with robots. Living as she does in an extremely educated and technologically literate part of the country, a few of her findings may not be applicable to those surviving in areas with limited usage of robotics and generally lower education levels. Furthermore, although Turkle shares stories from a multitude of people, she spends quite a bit of time on main, private high school, and university students, and also the elderly. Five Stars sherry turkle is a queen and anyone who gives a differing opinion is no friend of mine Too much robots My True Baby and Flurby I purchased the book I was interested in learning about how social media has effects on our society. What are the ideologies inherent to technologies? But that wasn't really her goal, so it's not a knock on what's a significant contribution. Alone Together relies on her ethnographic observations to comprehend the ways that new technologies—specifically, companionable robots and the always-connected-wireless world—are affecting interpersonal romantic relationships. No robot could have written this That was one of my thoughts as We read Sherry Turkle's Only Together: regardless of what robots learn to do, they'll never learn to write a book as thoughtful, informative, and intense as Alone Together.Because this reserve is indeed informative, because Turkle understands the complexities of technologies, she can make bold statements.It is interesting that Turkle chose to discuss robots in the first part of the publication and the web in the second component. As the cover of the depressing however fascinating book reads, modern society pushes regular people to anticipate less and less from one another while relying a lot more on technology.Turkle estimates children and adults who have hesitate to utilize the phone since it seems awkward and intrusive; it is much easier, they state, to dash off a text message or email. At the same time, Turkle points out, because of this very convenience, people expect quick responses. She describes the anxiousness of teenagers when they do not really get an immediate reply to their text messages. One girl discusses needing her cellular phone for "emergencies"; as it happens that what she means by "crisis" is having a feeling without being in a position to share it. Is the choice between a machine and its simulated emotions or nothing at all, living an empty life with severe loneliness? On the one hands, people put great effort even into short electronic mails. On the additional, they "test" tips and expressions in formation to observe how others react. Turkle asks these unpleasant questions, but solid answers verify elusive. The issue with such experimentation can be that it's conditioned almost entirely by online reactions, often reactions of strangers. As a culture, we should learn to appreciate each other and the issue and reward of genuine relationships and non-digital conversation. We tame and restrain ourselves, knowing that anything we do and say may end up "out there" forever. What goes on to our solitude when we can get responses to anything and so are likely to provide responses in turn? What happens to your feeling of dissent when everything we say and do on-line bears a trace? She highlights how important privacy can be to dissent, for if we have no place where we are able to think and work unseen, we end up policing ourselves and censoring our own thoughts.Throughout the book, Turkle brings up the question of solitude. "But occasionally a citizenry shouldn't simply 'be good,'" Turkle writes. "You have to keep space for dissent, actual dissent."Also, Turkle highlights, when we have no privacy we lose the ability to privilege some thoughts and activities over others. She quotes Eric Schmidt, CEO of Google, who says that "if you have something you do not want one to know, probably you must not be doing it in the first place." Like numerous others, he ignores the possibility that there might be personal privacy without shame or crime. Turkle is usually quoting people verbatim. The section contains discussions on artificial cleverness and machine emotions. Turkle quotes a woman who claims

there is nothing much to learn about her; Turkle shares stories about gamers whose fast paced, interesting digital worlds have replaced aspects of their slower real worlds, including one man prefers his Second Life wife to his physically-present wife and children. Turkle warns that the type of technology and robotics don't realize and care, they simply "perform care" and understanding.One of Turkle's most effective points is that we attended "to take the efficiency of emotion seeing that emotion enough. it is a caution to a society molded around staying away from human interaction and human sense. It behaves as if it feels, and that is enough. But is it? The second portion of the book also talks about online lives (Second Lifestyle, World of Warcraft, etc." How can you go about defending something that isn't tangible, visible, or measurable? It really is tough, but Turkle will it. They would not know how to pose the questions, aside from use such discernment in addressing them. But I skipped the 1st chapter as the author keep talking about robots (My Actual Baby, Flurby). She suggests that the contact of a human hand is indeed different from a robot's, that a handwritten letter is different from a text message, that considering and remembering have worth even when it seems there's no additional time for them. I won't give away the ending, nonetheless it still left me with a surprising sadness, as though in a movie theater, if it is over and the area is dark, and you sit there for a few minutes, stunned, before getting up and strolling out in to the blink-provoking street. It's good but We don't trust it This would be a four-star or five-star review, except I'm very acquainted with one of the books Ms. Turkle cites in passing, and it absolutely will not say what she says it does. Turkle isn't a Luddite, and this isn't a book against new technology. Instantly upon reading it, I lost all faith in this reserve, and I now totally mistrust it.Nevertheless, it's still got a huge amount of really interesting research overall, and a lot of the time Ms. We might want to keep things to ourselves for any number of factors; "Flow" only enters the discussion extremely tangentially, only for like three sentences. It's debatable about how generalizable ethnographic results are." Sherry Turkle can be an ethnographer of technology, which means that she observes people getting together with technology and interviews them about any of it to be able to understand the meaning of this technology to users' lives. Different ways of conveying information are in no way equivalent, and a culture that relies mainly on simple text and picture text messages loses a gigantic amount that only face-to-encounter speaking can convey.I'm only about 60% of just how through this book, and it's really still very interesting, so I still plan to end it, and I'm happy to be reading it, however in a zombie apocalypse, I would literally not switch my back again on the writer for a moment. She intends to bridge the gap between healthy human interaction and technological innovations, this can be observed in the case of the ELIZA plan, which is essentially a therapy bot that learns from its users, yet each study proves that people consistently make use of robots and technology as a crutch instead of as an instrument for performance. By presenting the "strange" part 1st, she gives us a sense of how strange our everyday lives actually are, how far we have moved from experiencing each other's existence.A few caveats to conclude. I'm not kidding, my jaw was hanging open. The book's debate of advances in robotics will get genuinely disturbing. Small children and struggling elderly people alike both encounter unfair demands in a hyper-consumerist American that frequently socially casts them both aside. Rather than an attack on brand-new technology, Turkle's work provides the basis for personal reflection on what technologies provide, but also on what they take away if we're not really careful.Turkle displays how our Internet communications combine the deliberate with the unconsidered. Some create false online profiles just to try out different sides of their personality. Those demographics and their experiences with technology may not be reflective of the wider US populace. She insists that we have the capacity and obligation to query the

principles behind brand-new inventions. The next half is more interesting but I don't just like the fact of quoting teenagers frequently rather than scientific research., for instance in departing our elderly parents in nursing homes. There is a troubling atmosphere amongst modern society that neglects the complexity of individual nature for the capability of technology because any relationship between human and technology is based in projection." Who cares, some might say, if the robot cannot experience?" Will the loss of privacy business lead more folks to dismiss themselves as boring? Five Stars fantastic Good read on ethical dilemmas with technology advancements Alone Together presents some tremendous insight to some of the ethical concerns revolving our innovations in technology. A Disturbing However Fascinating Book Several years have passed since professor Sherry Turkle wrote this compelling piece, but the arguments remain as apt as ever. This book is more than an examination of the relationship between humans and technology and how each are "shaped" through the other; While at times, it seems the argument could be a little bit biased since it appears she is so against technology, like in the case of the reporter accusing "species chauvinism" and Turkle stating the technology is definitely no species of its. With example after example, she points out evidence of her issues. And how do users consciously choose which ideologies to look at and promote and which to reject? There is normally little room to form thoughts independently. She's also a psychologist, worried about holistic human wellbeing.

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