



Ctrl, Alt; Delete: How I Grew Up Online

Emma Gannon

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Emma Gannon was born in 1989, the year the World Wide Web was conceived, so she's literally grown up alongside the Internet. There've been late night chat room experiments, sexting from a Nokia and dubious webcam exchanges. And let's not forget catfishing, MSN, digital friendships and #feminism. She was basically social networking way before it was a thing – and she's even made a successful career from it.

Ctrl Alt Delete is Emma's painfully funny and timely memoir, in which she aims to bring a little hope to anybody who has played out a significant part of their life online. Her confessions, revelations and honesty may even make you log off social media (at least for an hour).

Ctrl, Alt; Delete: How I Grew Up Online Details

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Author : Emma Gannon

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From Reader Review Ctrl, Alt; Delete: How I Grew Up Online for online ebook

Rebecca says

How I Grew Up Online is an interesting discussion of difficult issues that can affect young people, such as self-image and how society today makes us very aware of how we look, especially with the media, and is written from a female perspective that shows how girls and women can be both negatively and positively affected by the online world.

I liked the sense of humour that Emma tells her stories with, when the story was not too serious in nature she made light fun of it, which I found quite entertaining. The book as a whole was not incredibly gripping in that it did not have me unable to put it down, but it was still an enjoyable read that brought forward some interesting points about intriguing topics.

I think Emma made a good point about how we have a big problem with abuse on the internet and how that makes it difficult, when people are determined to make hateful comments at you rather than become involved in a conversation, to discuss important and controversial topics, some of which she also discusses in the book, such as feminism and the difficulty in learning to be a feminist when the internet makes it difficult to make mistakes. The book also makes a good point about how, while it is not the be-all and end-all, the internet is still important and can be used for good.

My copy of this book was received from Maximum Pop Books as a prize from a giveaway.

Fobe Knockaert says

Ctrl Alt Delete is een boek die ik al een tijdje op mijn 'to-read' lijst had staan omdat ik ook luister naar de gelijknamige podcast. Dit non-fictie boek heeft namelijk perfect weer hoe het is om op te groeien in deze tijd. De gevaren, maar ook de positieve kanten van de online wereld worden perfect uitgelicht door Emma.

Grace says

The whole way through I was just exclaiming 'YES YES THAT'S ME YEP!' or feeling my jaw drop at the 'realness' and cleverness of each chapter. I <3 Emma, all the retro and all the modern versions.

Aoife says

There are few books I would call wholly unputdownable, but this book is definitely unputdownable.

For a full review, please visit [Pretty Purple Polka Dots](#)

Beeuhtrix says

I should have guessed from the title of the book "how I grew up online" that the book would be about HER. Nothing wrong about that but I just could not relate to her stories and her experiences on Twitter (mainly) and on Internet.

Overall I would say that the book is ok and is easy to read. I would recommend it to someone who uses twitter on a daily basis , has a blog or YouTube channel. Otherwise, a regular user of internet and social media may not be able to identify him/herself with the stories she describes throughout the book.

Sophie says

Ctrl Alt; Delete is a book every millennial and Internet loving person needs to read. Even if you're not a big Internet person you still need to read it. Scratch that, everybody needs to read this book. It's so relatable, laugh-out-loud funny and also incredibly inspiring and thought provoking. Emma is such a gifted writer and this book was such a strong debut. I can't wait to see what she does next.

Debbie at Snuggling on the Sofa says

An interesting insight into the impact of social media and the Internet on our lives, relationships and careers.

Sarah Noonan says

Emma Gannon is someone I love in the blogging world and I have been a long time follower of her podcast so reading this book has been on my list of 'to read' for a very long time. The book follows how Emma grew up with the internet and how the online world affected different aspects like feminism, sexuality, friendship and work life.

This is one of those books that is very chilled out, could-read-in-a-day and is very relatable. You can tell a blogger wrote it and I love that - especially because I have a prior connection to Emma's voice online. Very enjoyable and an easy Sunday read that'll leave you going 'OMG I REMEMBER THAT'

Paula Dennen says

I don't remember exactly when I first came across Emma Gannon's blog, Girl Lost In The City but I know I spent ages reading back through every post.

When she announced she was writing a book about her experience of growing up online I pre-ordered it as soon I could.

I read it in one sitting. From discovering chatrooms in her early teens, to thoughts on internet porn, being a social media addict and the role the internet plays in her working life Ctrl Alt Delete is a smart, funny and

accessible memoir. A must read for social media lovers!

Stand out quotes include:

If I were to give Virginia Woolf's quote a little millennial update I'd say 'a woman must have money and an online space of her own'.

and

We are so starved of sexual content written for women by women that millions went to the cinema to see Jamie Dornan spank someone and give them an iPad in return. We're not asking for much, here.

Claire Hennessy says

Emma Gannon is part of that strange new generation who make a living from the internet, whose blogging about the everyday has led to writing and journalism and speaking engagements and who applauds the entrepreneurial spirit of vloggers and other creator/influencer types.

She's only a couple of years younger than me but the world she describes varies from familiar to terrifyingly alien. In the first two of her series of essays about her relationship with the internet, she depicts the stresses of MSN conversations and selecting the perfect profile picture – not just for strangers but for people at school, for friends-of-friends, for people you know – as well as the thoroughly unpleasant experience of having private messages to a boy shared publicly. And all this before she turns fifteen.

Gannon is perfectly pitched as the person to illustrate how earlier online communications paved the way for the tangled and problematic mess of social media today (even though she is very much a fan of it) – just on the cusp of that point where it was the norm for online identities to be linked to your real-world ones, rather than being completely separate. (I was a teenager in fandom circles, where it was your secret world. When Bebo started up and normal people had online profiles, it was weird.)

As she grows up 'with' various different social networks, she emphasises the power there is in staying on top of new trends and new apps – something which sounds completely exhausting, but seems to be what she loves. She also addresses the trickiness of discussing issues online, especially feminism. It's more breezy than thoughtful, perhaps in part because she's more used to blogging, but as a quick read about internet culture for young people, it works.

Emma says

4.5 Stars

Emily says

Absolutely loved this book. Very relatable. Would definitely recommend to others. :)

MuddledMummyMoss says

This was the first book I purchased on @audible and I enjoyed it immensely! I feel it's one of those books that should be on School library's everywhere and chapters studied! As a mum of 3 the internet is a scary and intimidating place, but this memoir offers some great insights in to how the online world can help and how the likely good is there will be tricky times, embarrassing moments and times where you will want the ground to swallow you whole- but you will survive!

Karina says

2.5 stars - This sits right there in the middle of the rating system because I didn't dislike it but I had really high hopes of recommending it to my equally as internet obsessed best friend... and I won't do that. I can see why so many people can relate to the stories of growing up online but for me the perspective and stories didn't apply. Not Emma's fault, but it did take away from my reading experience. I would definitely read a follow up book focusing more on her life after her career had taken off. I find her fascinating as a role-model in that department and the book did go in that direction a little towards the end.

Victoria Larsen Stø says

4.5
