



Age of Distraction: The Island

Patricia Mahon

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The survival of storytelling is the fundamental theme in Patricia M. Mahon's new "Age of Distraction" series of novellas. In Volume 1, "The Island," a speech writer and a school teacher bemoan the loss of human engagement and creativity due to the disconnect of the digital age. Joined by a Silicon Valley turncoat and techno-savant, the trio set out to create a global writing platform, an app that allows worldwide, real-time participation writing a collective story. The concept instantly goes viral but the irony lies in a virtual reality so strong, it takes the three on a wild journey of discovery, this volume's destination the first of many more to come."

Age of Distraction: The Island Details

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From Reader Review Age of Distraction: The Island for online ebook

Ann Bridges says

While the premise was interesting (is there really an app that might connect us through story?), I found the constant use of literary references interruptive to the story, and thus kept me from connecting to the characters as much as I would hope. Mahon's understanding of our wonderful literary tradition is fantastically on display, however, and her poetic use of words in this narrative kept this short work flowing nonetheless. I look forward to the rest of the series.

Bob says

Interesting story with a nice twist at the end, though the constant "quotes" from literary sources got a bit tiring. Real people and real storytellers simply don't speak this way; good stories draw you in, they don't put an intellectual/academic barrier between the listener/reader and the story itself. Ironically, though the theme running sledge-hammer-like throughout the novel is the loss of personal communication (because of technology), the repeated literary references bring about that same loss of personal connection. Still, an overall interesting story.

Jes says

A unique story making a timely argument and often with beautiful use of language. It's quickly apparent an academic wrote this story, as the style is heavy on the literary reference, usually through direct quotation. For a while this style is interesting as it is mixed with the expectations of reading fiction, but eventually it detracts from the believability of the characters, particularly Morgan. Morgan is quite the over-the-top literary enthusiast but, even so, when she consistently speaks aloud in literary quotations it feels unnatural. Overall, an enjoyable, quick read.

Jinx:The:Poet {the Literary Masochist, Ink Ninja & Word Roamer} says

****OBTAINED: Goodreads Giveaway****

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The Age of Distraction: The Island, by Patricia Mahon was a very compelling read. I think the concept has recently dawned on modern society that with so many technological advances (distractions) and the excessive, heavy reliance on social media, that our present society has not really gotten more "social" but indeed far more disconnected from the world around us. Reality, creativity, and humanity have become far less real to us than the constant images, mindless actions, blaring noise, and trivial data we now stream into our consciousness on a daily basis. The Island is a story, but also an enlightening read. It presents the reader with many strong opinions and values uncommon in our modern world. It made me wish it were not so, that the world could become a bit more simple, and less reliant on tech. Of course, not all technology is bad or useless, and it can be greatly beneficial, and this book mainly focuses on the preservation of the traditions of oral storytelling, and the deep intimate human interactions that have been gradually becoming a lost art form, rather than the whole picture of how our advancements might be potentially harmful.

I agree with the novel's theme immensely though not wholly, and not necessarily with its presented solution. Although fascinating in concept, I'm not sure an app, or an "anti-app" could truly change society's lack of connection or overall state of distraction. Perhaps in that regard I was missing what the supposed genius "app" was truly meant for. It does seem obvious that our society needs to reform, to change, or at least to take drastic measures in the hopes of preserving what is left of our oral history, storytelling and culture and even preserve the depth of true human interactions. I believe that if more people were to merely limit the usage of social media, internet, technology, and devote more time to truly live, to exist, to experience the world more deeply, and expand our relationships more intimately and further develop our creative minds, it would vastly help in this regard, though change for the masses really starts in the mind of the individual... Many kudos to author Patricia Mahon for such an intelligent, thought provoking Good-Read.

[OFFICIAL RATING: 4.5 STARS]

[NOTE: The Author was kind enough to sign my edition. Many thanks!]

Kristin Searce says

Disclaimer: I received an e-copy in exchange for an honest review.

I want to go on record that this was probably one of the best books I've read so far this year. It has such a wonderful premise, the characters are entertaining and insightful, and the story itself is just so wonderful.

I had actually taken the title to heart and was going to use this book as a "distraction" during other things, but Lord, was I mistaken! Once I started reading, I didn't want to put it down, and I almost gave up my place in line and one point so I didn't have to! The very end was certainly not what I had expected, but it just added that much more to the story, and I loved every minute of it.

I will definitely be keeping my eye out for more by this author, and I encourage anyone who likes to read to pick up this book. You won't be disappointed, I assure you.

5 stars

Joseph Sciuto says

Ms. Mahon's "The Age of Distraction/The Island" is a wonderful little gem; and I seriously mean that. I so thoroughly enjoyed the book. I don't know how big an audience there is out there for it but I seriously hope it catches fire and becomes a best seller. It asks many questions...many important questions...but it wasn't the questions that so excited me but the characters and the stories and the wonderful insertion of the classics. The author, and the editor, are extremely knowledgeable. Very well done...very impressive.

Cara Mia says

Wow. It has been a long time since I've read a book that not only stopped me in my tracks, but transcended time and place. This is a fast-paced story that keeps you guessing. I met so many people that I care about. There are so many layers of artistry. I loved the literary quotes. They were well-placed and appropriate. The powerful voices of Frost, Atwood, Yeats, Shelley and Hugo made everything click. I get it. This is a story about human communication and connections and despite the modern age, beautiful words will continue to survive as long as we continue to dream.

It is as Kafka says, as quoted in 'The Island' "A book must be the ax for the frozen sea inside of us."

Literary Classics Book Awards & Reviews says

Is the art of formulating words becoming extinct? Have texts, emoticons and e-mails smothered the act of communication?

"You would think technology would make communication easier."

"That's the irony, Percy. It's shut everything down!"

. . . thus begins a snippet of dialogue in this thought-provoking novel about an app created to encourage people to put aside their digital distractions and engage in the art of story-telling. The Island is a compelling tale within a tale which draws readers in with the turn of each page. Employing the use of this interactive app, participants become immersed in a world created by people from around the globe who breathe life into an interchange of ideas which cohesively develop into a free-form story.

A compelling read that's hard to put down, fantasy and reality merge to create a fascinating tale of adventure, love and hope. As the story develops we are drawn into Morgan and Percy's world and that of their app. Author Patricia Mahon has crafted a particularly relevant novel with a powerful message which resonates with readers on many levels. Well written and entirely unique, The Island has earned the Literary Classics Seal of Approval.

Rabia says

Morgan Byrnes and her longtime friend and teacher Percy Chadwick are devastated that the art of "talking" or "storytelling" is dying with the new age of technology. Their generations are slouched over their tabs and

phones, but no one is actually writing about their era. The thought of no future generation finding out about their era is unacceptable for them.

The two writer friends have been writing all their lives and they decide to make an app that allows people to contribute to an ongoing story that was created by the people themselves. They aspire to create a platform where they can make the world's first global e-book. They try to get funding from Silicon Valley, but their ideas are dismissed by the cynicism and monetary values of the big buck holders. Instead of begging them, Morgan and Percy decide to do things on their own and on their own terms. With the help of a geek, Rowley Gaines, they make the app that starts a revolution. The "Anti-app" is exactly what society needs to stay "connected" and "disconnected."

Patricia M. Mahon has done a brilliant job with a topic that has created a constant debate in society. With the age of "virtual society," people have been losing connection with their loved ones. *Stories from the Age of Distraction: The Island* not only raises voice about the topic, but she actually gives us a solution to the distractions of our age. I really enjoyed that, especially the linguistic abilities of the writer. She made me fall in love with words once again. A really good novel.
