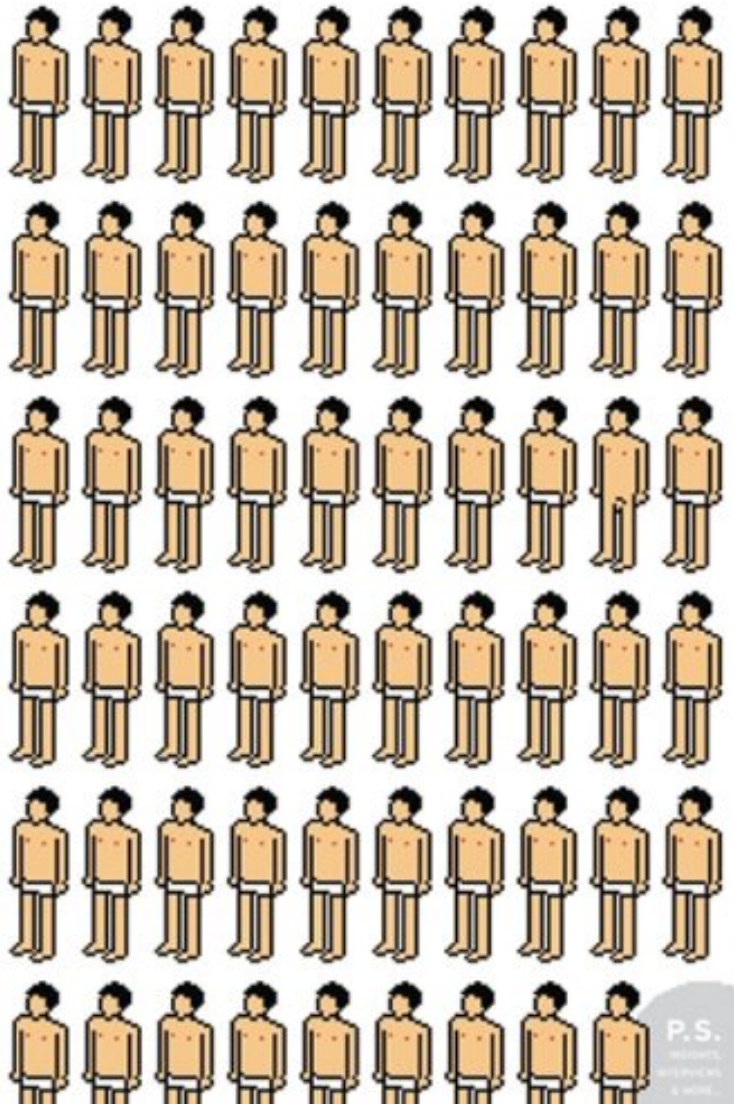


(Download pdf) Microserfs: A Novel

## Microserfs: A Novel

*Von Douglas Coupland*  
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**Von Douglas Coupland : Microserfs: A Novel** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Microserfs: A Novel:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich.  
everyone is a geek, everyone will relate.Von Customerthis book is warming, startling and profound. it's a fresh, confrontational, provocative novel that pulls the reader into the narrative while making them realize the world that surrounds them. like the radiohead record "ok computer", it emphasizes the juxtaposition of technology with the patterns of life, the patterns of sadness and desperation, and the things we need to do to take control of our lives from

being gripped by either technology, sadness OR desperation. the focus, despite the occasional confrontation of a page saying something like "I AM YOUR PERSONAL COMPUTER", shifts from the materialism of life making what makes life worthwhile to the interdependency and essentiality of friendship in society. it freaks me out to think of all the technology that has made it so much harder for people to connect in society. this book is ironic: in the narrative, it brings together the people at the very root of the creation of technology that causes this separation and makes a family out of them. and really, it's not cheesy... this book seems like a direct ray of purpose from the author telling us to wake up. i think it's great. and you don't have to be a computer geek to agree. 1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. on the occasion of my 10th reading.... Von Ein Kunde i am in love with douglas coupland. douglas, if you're reading this, your books have had a profound impact on my life and i count you as my favorite author (and one of my favorite canucks too!). "microserfs" is amazing. it's one of those books that i pass out to prospective friends, telling them that if they don't get it, well, then, our friendship is probably doomed. i came across coupland my senior year of high school during a period when i was reading voraciously anything i could get my hands on. he stopped me dead in my tracks. i was - and still am - hooked. his new one, "miss wyoming", comes out in december and i already have it on order. "microserfs" is a fine example of everything that is right (and a few things that are wrong, in the eyes of the average reader) with coupland. his characters are witty, intelligent, and most of all familiar. everyone knows a body-obsessed guy like todd, a guy who has meaningless sex in search of something better, or a girl like susan, just coming into her thirties with nothing meaningful to show for her life, therefore making changes, becoming a grrl and embracing who she is. i found myself in karla and dan. karla's need to be perfect, dan's constant desire to make his parents happy in a way that only jed could, all of this and more i find in myself. if you've never used a computer before, even if you fear computers, the characters will draw you along, make you want to know what happens next. coupland has once again found - or created - a microcosm that is as dear to his readers as the deadheads of "polaroids" or the teens-then-adults of "girlfriend." there are a few definite things that can be seen detracted by new readers. the pages of computer thought are confusing. while i enjoyed the prince emulator, a non-computer person would probably just have been confused. also, coupland seems to appeal to a niche audience, leaving out a lot of the mainstream, john grisham and jan karon, oprah's book club type readers. but all that aside, coupland has created another marvel and i am glad of it. part of me wishes he would get noticed by oprah or someone with similar power in the media world. i wish his brilliance would stop getting such a bad rap (i.e. the people mag review of "girlfriend"). but part of me, like a true indie fan, hopes he stays in his niche, writing for fans like me and you. i only hope that his new one is as good as this. 1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. An epic tale of Nerf guns and Price-Costco aisles. Von Ein Kunde "Microserfs", besides being one of the easiest reads I've ever had, is also one of the most accurate portrayals of geek twentysomething (circa the mid 90's) confusion, compassion and comradery I've ever read. It also effortlessly skewers the high-tech community with laser-like accuracy, both in the oppressive, monoculture environment of Microsoft coders as well as the hyperpaced whirlwind of Silicon Valley. The book is presented in the form of a journal by Daniel Underwood, who initially identifies himself only through his Microsoft email address danielu@microsoft.com. Surrounding him is a cadre of fellow coders all willing to submit their lives wholesale to their fearless corporate diety (B..B..B..Bill!), until a chance for equity and "one-point-oh" status lures them into Silicon Valley Start-up Hell. The story arc provides an exhilarating study of geeks in search of a life, with no pop-culture reference left unturned. Incredibly for a book mired so much in a technological world advancing at a logarithmic pace, it is as relevant in its characterizations and themes as the day it was published. It's these characterizations that really make this book sing. The ensemble players seem as if they were carefully removed from a petre dish at the Atlanta Center for Dweeb Control...the bemused narrator obsessed with the randomness of popular culture, the riot grrl, the ultra-sensitive high-strung coding genius, to mention just a few...and the story arc provides them with ample room for change as they embark on their quests to find lives and loves. And again for a novel that deals with the software industry, it has an amazing feel for the female perspective. Not only are three strong women characters provided, their each distinct personalities provide the spectrum of geek-girl sensibilities. Along with a show-stopping female tirade about...well, you'll know what I'm talking about when you read it. It is probably enough to say that Microserfs out-Generation-Xes "Generation-X", author Douglas Coupland's other study of slacker culture. Within the mechanical confines of the software industry, Coupland conjures an incredibly enjoyable and touching tale of young people finding their way out of digital serfdom.

Kurzbeschreibung They are Microserf six code-crunching computer whizzes who spend upward of sixteen hours a day "coding" and eating "flat" foods (food which, like Kraft singles, can be passed underneath closed doors) as they fearfully scan company e-mail to learn whether the great Bill is going to "flame" one of them. But now there's a chance to become innovators instead of cogs in the gargantuan Microsoft machine. The intrepid Microserfs are striking out on their own living together in a shared digital flophouse as they desperately try to cultivate well-rounded lives and find love amid the dislocated, subhuman whirl and buzz of their computer-driven world.. deMicroserfs is

about a group of young Microsoft employees who seem to spend all their waking hours working, holed away in their offices staring at computer screens. Matthew Perry, of television's *Friends*, does a remarkable job of bringing this abridged audiobook version humorously and heartbreakingly to life. In the beginning, he appropriately uses the sarcastic voice for which he is so well known, but as the story reveals the darker side of protagonist Dan's frantic world, Perry drops the attitude and uses a much more understanding tone. Dan, not yet 30, but already facing burnout, realizes he has no life and begins keeping a journal in an attempt to sort through his personal and professional plight. Halfway through the story (read as journal entries), Dan and a group of like-minded cohorts quit their jobs, pack their bags, and set out to start up their own company in Silicon Valley. This audiobook is an often hilarious foray into the risks and the rewards of the high-tech world. (Running time: three hours, two cassettes) *Pressestimmen* Coupland continues to register the buzz of his generation with fidelity. (Jay McInerney, *New York Times Book* ) The novel's real fun is the frequent and rapidly fired pop-culture references that span the 70s, 80s and 90s...and Coupland uses them with relish. (Entertainment Weekly)