Islands in the Net

By Bruce Sterling

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In a near-future new age of corporate control, hacker mercenaries, and electronic terrorism, a public relations executive on the rise finds herself caught in the violent epicenter of a data war

Two decades into the twenty-first century, the world's nations are becoming irrelevant. Corporations are the true global powers, with information the most valuable currency, while the smaller island nations have become sanctuaries for data pirates and terrorists. A globe-trotting PR executive for the large corporate economic democracy Rizome Industries Group, Laura Webster is present when a foreign representative is assassinated on Rizome soil during a conference for offshore data havens. Dispatched immediately on an international mission of diplomacy, Laura hopes she can make a difference in a volatile, unsteady world, but instead finds herself trapped on the front lines of rapidly escalating third-world hostilities and caught up in an inescapable net of conspiracy, terrorism, post-millennial voodoo, and electronic warfare.

During the 1980s, science fiction luminary Bruce Sterling envisioned the future . . . and hit it almost dead-on. The author who, along with William Gibson, Neal Stephenson, and Rudy Rucker, helped create and define the cyberpunk subgenre imagines a world of tomorrow in *Islands in the Net* that bears a striking—and disturbing—resemblance to our present-day information-age reality. Nominated for the Hugo and Locus Awards and winner of the John W. Campbell Memorial Award, Sterling's extraordinary novel is a gripping, eye-opening, and remarkably prescient science fiction classic.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review
Slightly dated science fiction about the near future can be fun, especially when it evokes a strange, chaotic, and dangerous world that's uncomfortably close to our present one. Bruce Sterling's 1988 book, *Islands in the Net*, is a thrilling blend of high tech and low humanity. The glue that binds together this world of data pirates, mercenaries, nanotechnology, weaponry, and post-millennial voodoo is the global electronic net. You'll find jarring references to pre-Microsoft Windows computer technology, the Soviet Union, and that fancy new wonder machine--the fax. But this book has enough cool stuff to keep even a jaded cyberpunk interested. The characters are far more than mere constructs used to show off the technology, and the plot is fast, complicated, and mysterious. Veteran Sterling fans will enjoy this taste of his pre-fame style.

From Library Journal
A war between data pirates involves a young woman and her husband in a desperate search for a new kind of international terrorist. The author of Schismatrix (LJ 6/15/85) explores the gulf between the high-tech haves and have-nots in this fast-paced novel of 21st-century techno-intrigue. Recommended for all collections.JC Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Review

"A fast-paced novel of 21st-century techno-intrigue. Recommended." —*Library Journal*

"In his *Islands in the Net*, Bruce Sterling has written the high-tech Candide. . . . Good show." —Roger Zelazny

"A sophisticated near-future political thriller that asks all the hard questions but dishes out no easy answers." —Norman Spinrad

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Charles Dame:

Have you spare time for just a day? What do you do when you have a lot more or little spare time? Yeah, you can choose the suitable activity to get spend your time. Any person spent their spare time to take a stroll, shopping, or went to the Mall. How about open as well as read a book titled Islands in the Net? Maybe it is to become best activity for you. You realize beside you can spend your time using your favorite's book, you can smarter than before. Do you agree with it has the opinion or you have various other opinion?

Clarence Bowen:

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Marsha Gleason:

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