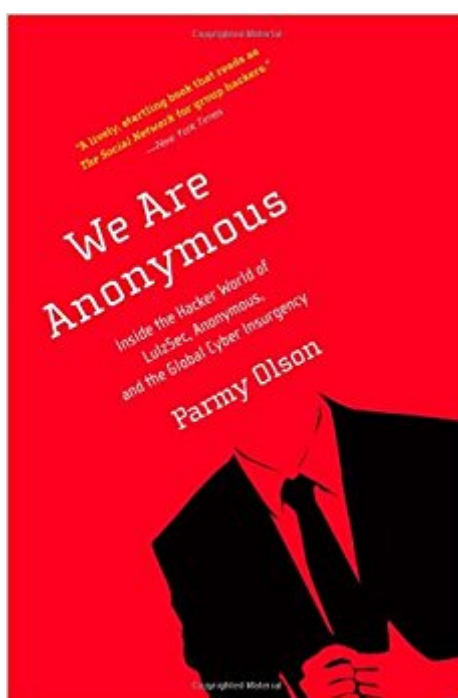


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# We Are Anonymous: Inside The Hacker World Of LulzSec, Anonymous, And The Global Cyber Insurgency



## Synopsis

Updated with a new epilogueA thrilling, exclusive expose of the hacker collectives Anonymous and LulzSec. WE ARE ANONYMOUS is the first full account of how a loosely assembled group of hackers scattered across the globe formed a new kind of insurgency, seized headlines, and tortured the feds-and the ultimate betrayal that would eventually bring them down. Parmy Olson goes behind the headlines and into the world of Anonymous and LulzSec with unprecedented access, drawing upon hundreds of conversations with the hackers themselves, including exclusive interviews with all six core members of LulzSec. In late 2010, thousands of hacktivists joined a mass digital assault on the websites of VISA, MasterCard, and PayPal to protest their treatment of WikiLeaks. Other targets were wide ranging-the websites of corporations from Sony Entertainment and Fox to the Vatican and the Church of Scientology were hacked, defaced, and embarrassed-and the message was that no one was safe. Thousands of user accounts from pornography websites were released, exposing government employees and military personnel. Although some attacks were perpetrated by masses of users who were rallied on the message boards of 4Chan, many others were masterminded by a small, tight-knit group of hackers who formed a splinter group of Anonymous called LulzSec. The legend of Anonymous and LulzSec grew in the wake of each ambitious hack. But how were they penetrating intricate corporate security systems? Were they anarchists or activists? Teams or lone wolves? A cabal of skilled hackers or a disorganized bunch of kids? WE ARE ANONYMOUS delves deep into the internet's underbelly to tell the incredible full story of the global cyber insurgency movement, and its implications for the future of computer security.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"A lively, startling book that reads as 'The Social Network' for group hackers. As in that Facebook film the technological innovations created by a few people snowball wildly beyond expectation, until they have mass effect. But the human element - the mix of glee, malevolence, randomness, megalomania and just plain mischief that helped spawn these changes - is what Ms. Olson explores best... We Are Anonymous also captures the broad spectrum of reasons that Anonymous and LulzSec attracted followers." — Janet Maslin, New York Times

"Olson keeps We Are Anonymous moving quickly, as she jumps around in chronology, using dramatic cliffhangers to tie the different strands of the narrative together while commanding attention... An eminently human tale." — Rowan Kaiser, AV Club

Parmy Olson is the London Bureau Chief for Forbes Magazine.

I poured through the book in a short couple days. I've been following the hacking scene, hacktivism, #Occupy, Wikileaks, the deployment of cyber-weapons by nation-states, and all the stories that cross an average nerd's retina by way of a well-tuned media feed. The book shed incredible light on many of the narratives I've been following, and Olson's narratives extend right up to the present. The book is very much 'en medias res' - there's hints of a back-story (and promises of more details there from the forthcoming book by Barrett and Gregg), and a strong implication that there's much more to come. While it focuses on the Lulzsec 6 (demonstrating an impressive degree of access - and a remarkably objective approach, given the proclivity of hackers to misdirect), it really tells of the overall structure and culture of Anonymous. No hint is given of what the Hivemind will pull off next - but the book leaves us in the present, where Anonymous (as a strange collective) has clearly demonstrated its relevance (as a model and as an open brand) as a non-state actor.

being aware of Anonymous and Lulzsec, I was looking forward to reading this and it did deliver some interesting observations and gave the groups some perspective, it did seem to suffer from one of two things on the writing side — either it was poorly written and the editing of it proved to be too much for the person assigned to it or the book suffered badly in the translation from the writers and editors app to the Kindle version — that being said, a lot of the drama and intrapersonal dynamics did seem to get watered down in Olson's narrative and it came across

as a bit dry for such a juicy topic, but don't let that dissuade you if you want to know more about this interesting cross-section of online citizens. I recommend it strongly, if not wholeheartedly, for the reasons mentioned.

If you're the slightest bit into IT and Information Security this is a great read. Techie enough to be interesting, but also informative about the people, their drives and personalities. A rare glimpse into a World usually surrounded in BS from The Media.

We Are Anonymous was a great piece of unbiased journalism. The political nature of Anonymous, with their ties to the Occupy movement, has often led to an inaccurate "David vs. Goliath" portrayal of this group. Parmy Olson does not fall into this trap and instead simply reports the facts, regardless of how unflattering they may be for the Federal Government or, especially, Anonymous. Being interested in the world of cyber-security, I found this book especially interesting. The only thing he could have done better would have been to dig more into the story of every day people who were hurt by Anonymous.

Being one of the many who have found the ongoing "Anonymous" craze interesting, I naturally wanted to pick up a copy of this book when I saw the Author, Parmy Olson on "The Daily Show" with Jon Stewart. I was immediately intrigued and purchased a copy that night. Once I got the book, I tore into its pages. Driven by a thirst for knowledge about the inner workings of the group, I could not put it down. If I read any faster, the pages would have ignited! I suggest this book to anyone who would like to understand more about a select group involved in the creation of Anonymous/Lulzsec and numerous other entities during the uprising. The book is not layered with massive amounts of technical jargon that the average person would not be able to understand. Although I am familiar with the space, it wasn't overbearing. Great read and highly suggested to all!

Well written, easy to read, very fascinating. Unfortunately the book is written about people who barely deserve oxygen. An in depth look into our sad, sad, generation.

In a time when so many of spend almost all of our free time connected to the internet, this is a good read for those who want to be more informed on how the "hacker" mindset works. I think people with a background in Computer Science will find this book entertaining in the sense that they will see how computer skills can be manipulated to take advantage of innocent internet users. However, this

book will probably be even more entertaining who don't have that kind of background in Computer Science. The author does a good job of explaining the technical concepts that are introduced in the book, giving readers a good insight as to how internet attacks are carried out. Either way, everybody can walk away with some new knowledge about the intranet after reading this book. This is a good read for anybody who spends some time on the internet.

Almost all of the media coverage that is commented on in this book I encountered directly over the last several years through information on The Register, Ars Technica and other sites. I really enjoyed how well this time period was summarized by Parmy Olson. The people she interviews for this book are young and possess a new philosophy that could only exist at this time in history. Being a computer scientist myself, I also thought that Olson deftly explains technical topics in general terms so that everyone can appreciate how and why various Anonymous efforts were successful at disrupting corporate and government interests on the web.

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