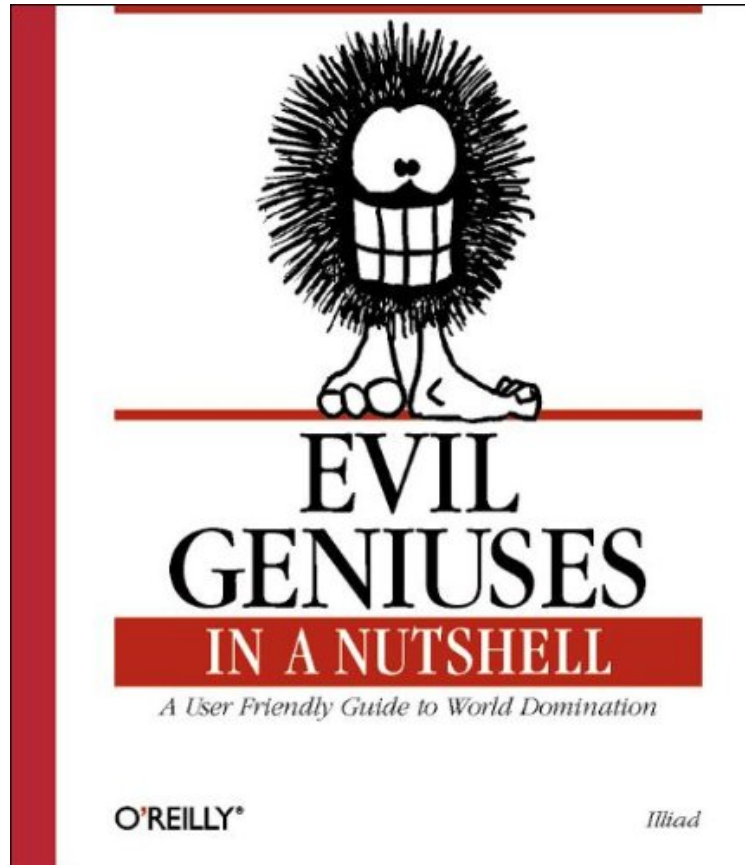


(Library ebook) Evil Geniuses in a Nutshell (In a Nutshell (O'Reilly))

Evil Geniuses in a Nutshell (In a Nutshell (O'Reilly))

J. D. "Illiad" Frazer

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J. D. "Illiad" Frazer : Evil Geniuses in a Nutshell (In a Nutshell (O'Reilly)) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Evil Geniuses in a Nutshell (In a Nutshell (O'Reilly)):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Evil GeniiBy Brett BydairkMore techie humor about the employees of Columbia ISP. A collection of strip from 2000, so some references might be dated, but anyone who has done network administration, run a help desk, or even worked in a high-tech office should enjoy the antics of this crew.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Kenneth B. KnechtAnother good book by Illiad0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. BookBy Marilyn BI chose this item from a Christmas list of a family member. He was happy to receive this gift which is out of print.

The follow-up to the highly successful first collection of User Friendly comic strips from O'Reilly Associates, Evil Geniuses in a Nutshell tells the continuing tale of Columbia Internet, "the friendliest, hardest-working and most neurotic little Internet Service Provider in the world." Take three techs, two salespeople, a designer, two executives, a couple of administrative staff, mix in a mischievous Artificial Intelligence and a "dust puppy" born from the innards of a mega server, put them all together in a crowded little office, and you have the makings of one of the most off-beat,

original and funny comic strips to come along in years. "If you ask 20 people what User Friendly is about, you'll get 20 subtly different answers," says the cartoon's creator, J.D. 'Illiad' Frazer. " Some say it's a cartoon about Open Source; some say it's about the rift between technical and nontechnical staff; others say its about the pain that technical people suffer when dealing with the stubbornly unintelligent; some even say that User Friendly is a cartoon about Internet Workers. User Friendly addresses all those issues, but I don't think that's what it's about, strictly speaking. User Friendly's universe revolves around the simple idea that technology brings out both the best and the worst in people, no matter who they are." User Friendly reads like Dilbert for the Open Source community. With a massive online following, it provides outsiders a light-hearted look at the world of the hard core geek, and allows those who make their living dwelling in this world a chance to laugh at themselves.

.com I'm very familiar with the Nutshell books, what my pal Van Wolverton calls "propellerhead books," or books for the nerds among us. This is appropriate because nerds appreciate brevity. On the other hand, Evil Geniuses in a Nutshell appreciates levity. I was guessing that maybe the book was about crazy computer scientists. And, in a way, it is! But more accurately, Evil Geniuses in a Nutshell is a collection of the User Friendly cartoon strips, originally published on the Internet at <http://www.userfriendly.org/>. The fuzzy-headed-with-feet guy on the book's cover is Dust Puppy, the strip's mascot (who is apparently very popular among the propellerheads; a copy of him secretly appears in the game Quake III). Other characters, familiar to anyone who works in high tech, also appear in the comic strip, as well as various foreign agents, domestic spies, and what possibly could be parodies of well-known computer geeks. The book is funny--the only Nutshell book I've ever laughed at. The illustrations were obviously done on a computer in some bitmap graphics application, but they aren't bad (and don't tell me they're stupid unless you've tried it; it is hard). The humor is often subtle, but I occasionally found myself bursting out laughing. Like Dilbert, Calvin and Hobbes, or even Married with Children, it takes a while to soak in the humor, but then it becomes addictive. I recommend Evil Geniuses in a Nutshell if for no other reason than so you can have a truly funny computer book on your shelf. (Or in the WC, which is where I read it.) There is a follow-on called User Friendly the comic strip, also from O'Reilly. The more you're into technical things, the more you'll appreciate it. --Dan Gookin
About the Author: J.D. "Illiad" Frazer is the CIO and Creative Director for userfriendly.org, the leading IT-oriented cartoon site on the Web today. J.D. is a frustrated elk-herder who fell into cartooning because nobody else is brave enough to make fun of some of the most intelligent, devious, and powerful people in the world. He is a member of the National Cartoonists Society and continues to fly all over hell's half-acre delivering keynote speeches and half-baked opinions to bewildered audiences at conferences. He is an advocate of open source computing, an opponent of anything that legislates what people should think, and gets into a lot of trouble when he's left alone in nuclear power stations.