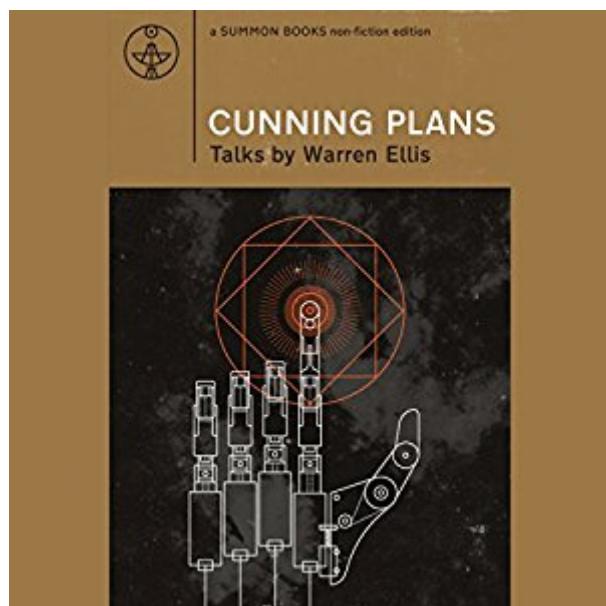


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Cunning Plans: Talks By Warren Ellis



Synopsis

Cunning Plans collects several of NYT best-selling author Warren Ellis' lectures on the nature of the haunted future and the secrets of deep history, given in recent years at events in London, New York, Los Angeles, and Berlin.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

As a recipient of Mr. Ellis' "Orbital Operations" emails, I looked forward to this book, as my favorite parts of his email dispatches are the bits and blurbs from his various talks, and his musings on technology and the future and whatnot. This book did not disappoint. I read it in a day, and my only issue was that it wasn't twice as long.

Warren Ellis' gives us his take on why the futurists' penchant for prediction is utter bulls***. He argues for an organic future that really cannot be predicted as seen time and time again. This book contains short snippets of his thoughts and speeches (at times repetitive but adds to pugnacity of the argument) at various sci-fi and tech conventions/conferences. I would recommend this to people familiar with Mr. Ellis! If not, tread warily!

Warren Ellis is the Raving Maniac of the Internet who, of course makes the most sense. The man reads what you read, then he thinks about it before vomiting forth an opinion. Or at least that's what it seems like in these talks. Buy this book. Give Warren more time to think.

Brief and fascinating, Warren Ellis talks about the future and how deeply connected it is with our past. From modern magic mirrors to the future of pop music Warren covers a lot of ground like only the mastermind behind *Transmetropolitan* and *Planetary* could.

If you enjoy Warren Ellis' fictional output, you'll probably enjoy him expounding in a non-fiction capacity. This one's a quick read, with a series of pieces with loose thematic connections. I enjoyed reading a monograph a day for about on a week.

I'm very biased, as I tend to really really really like Warren Ellis' writing style. But come on, someone who explains in just a few pages how murder really is about the betterment of one's lifestyle has been read. More seriously, in this book, Ellis provides a selection of speeches and talks he gave at different gatherings. The themes tend to revolve around modernity, science-fiction and how science-fiction is now, and that old saying taken from Arthur C. Clarke: "Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic." Ellis example using tablets and iPads in particular is very compelling. It is a short read, but a highly enjoyable one.

This is a series of talks over the certain period of time so there is shared content and themes with some slight repetition, as you'd expect. The order of them in the book however builds each thought into the next, so you feel a progression in thought. More than anything though I had some laughs reading this as Warren is a funny funster.

If you've ever enjoyed Warren Ellis' take on the times we live in, I highly recommend this essay collection. It's preachy at times, and overly referential as to almost be off-putting, but Ellis has a take on our society's acceleration towards banality and self-immolation that's somehow equal parts joyful as it is horrifying

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