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The Butterfly Effect With Jon Ronson



Synopsis

From best-selling writer Jon Ronson and the executive producer behind the TED Radio Hour and Invisibilia, Audible Originals presents a new seven-episode series, *The Butterfly Effect* with Jon Ronson. [Contains explicit content] Free for a limited time, hear the story of what happened when the tech industry gave the world what it wanted: free porn. Lives were mangled. Fortunes were made. All for your pleasure. Follow writer and narrator Jon Ronson as he uncovers our web of desire. About Jon Ronson: Known for exploring the fringes of society, Jon Ronson is a best-selling writer, noted documentarian, and screenwriter - including the award-winning *Frank* and critically acclaimed *Okja*. He is the author of international hits *So You've Been Publicly Shamed*, *The Men Who Stare at Goats*, and *The Psychopath Test*, amongst others. A TED Talk favorite, Ronson is also a regular contributor to public radio's *This American Life*, the *New York Times* magazine, and *GQ* magazine. A Note from Jon: Hi everyone, Welcome to *The Butterfly Effect*. It's sort of about porn, but it's about a lot of other things. It's sad, funny, moving and totally unlike some other nonfiction stories about porn - because it isn't judgmental or salacious. It's human and sweet and strange and lovely. It's a mystery story, an adventure. It's also, I think, a new way of telling a story. This season follows a single butterfly effect. The flap of the butterfly's wings is a boy in Brussels having an idea. His idea is how to get rich from giving the world free online porn. Over seven episodes I trace the consequences of this idea, from consequence through to consequence. If you keep going in this way, where might you end up? It turns out you end up in the most surprising and unexpected places. So if you're thinking, why do I want to listen to a show about the tech takeover of the porn industry, I have two things to say: 1. Why wouldn't you want to listen to a show about the tech takeover of the porn industry? That's a great idea for a show. 2. Would you want to listen to a show about three women destroying a mysterious Norwegian man's stamp collection? Well, that happens at the end of episode 2. At the end of Episode 3 a woman becomes convinced that she played a part in a murder committed by an Italian priest. At the end of Episode 4 a boy in Oklahoma is forced to move to a house on the very, very edge of his town. I hope you like our show, Jon Ronson

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Incredibly interesting! Jon Ronson has such a knack for storytelling and I always find tracing the butterfly effect to be fascinating. You won't be disappointed!

I was jolted so many times by this book I feel like I've been living blind. At the moment, I'm the chief of the USAF global public website program, so as it happens my life is all about website hits, RSS feeds and the flow of customers between various elements of our website enterprise. Among the many jolts of this book is how much my life has in common with the guy who started the free online porn revolution. However, the most amazing jolt was the involvement of young children in watching porn and some young children who have a health issue that impedes their ability to process information, like autism. In all, this book was a painful read. It is superior to all other audio books I've consumed because it wasn't narrated. The interviews with the various research subjects were audibly recorded and so one major advantage is that I can hear their own voices, inflections and pauses. This brings this story to life. Many of whom, I suspect wouldn't want to be on camera, so an audio format is really perfect for this subject. I couldn't help but talk about this book. At work. At home. One Facebook. Here's one of those conversations: Pornhub is the defacto Sex Ed of the 21st century according to an audible book called the Butterfly Effect. Most 10 year olds use smartphones to access it. Craig: Well that's awful Charlotte Ann Hu I couldn't agree with you more Mike: The ability to block sites like this have been available for years at the router level on home networks. The mobile industry has to realize the epidemic and make similar measures available and easy to implement. (And if they are already available, they are doing a poor job of making it known.) Eric: Mike, it should be an option for parents to block classes of sites at the ISP level, too. Charlotte Ann Hu I was a bit shocked when sent me a free link to a book on porn. I was even more shocked when I felt compelled to continue listening. Posted link to 's website with this book Amy: As a teacher and as the parent of two girls, ages 10 and 11, I can affirm that is 100% true. No other parents seem to want to believe me or talk about it with their kids. This is a great resource that I share all the time. Dove Dove Dove heysigmund doc

com/children-and-pornography/Kids and Pornography - What Parents Need To Know and What To Do

Charlotte Ann Hu One of the porn stars interviewed in the documentary says she often has kids in their tweens walk up to her and ask if she wants to "F**K." She lectures them that what they see is fiction, and they should not believe it's true.

Charlotte Ann Hu Another porn star said recently more kids than adults recognize her when she's out in public.

Charlotte Ann Hu I seriously worry about the sexuality of a generation whose sexual expectations are set by porn. It's like our body size expectations set by the fashion industry. This is all so wrong.

Amy: Lots of kids get PTSD-like symptoms based on the sheer shock of what they've seen. Nightmares, intrusive thoughts, unwelcome images popping up when triggered. Then they go back for more, and they are hooked. It's a thing. Believe me, there are child therapists here who only specialize in kids with porn exposure / addiction etc. and I don't mean teens. I mean kids.

Charlotte Ann Hu Yes. The documentary mentioned porn addiction at a very young age.

Charlotte Ann Hu Also a kid with autism texted images and language from porn to another 10 year old girl whom he appears to have genuinely felt attraction. The kid is now a certified sex offender.

Amy: Charlotte Ann Hu yup. The neurodiverse are sitting ducks for this stuff. It's uncharted waters, truly, and for those of us teaching or parenting at this time, it's tough!

Terry: Yeah, my friends found it on their 10 year olds phone. That's why my kids have flip phones and are threatened with death if I ever catch them looking at porn.

Charlotte Ann Hu Even if you can stop your kids, their future partners ideas will be shaped by free streaming porn. There's no escape.

Terry: I know. That is the sad thing about sexuality these days. No one respects sex as a bond between a husband and wife.

Harty: Ever visited the site?

Charlotte Ann Hu No. I've never seen it. I should.

Harty posted a dancing gif here with a big smiling cartoon character that had a T-shirt that said OK.

Harty: Look, there are a number of blocking services. I recommend using those and teaching kids about responsible sex. Hey, I was a young Marine male once. I had my moments. But my mother, a psychologist, taught me to know the diff between sex and love and the responsibility of both.

Charlotte Ann Hu Harty, this isn't about personal responsibility. This is a cultural sea change.

Hartman Slate A cultural sea change is the changing direction of a lot of individual fish, agreed?

Charlotte Ann Hu True that.

Gene C. Browne What's pornhub?

Harty: It's a play on "Horn Pub," a drive-up bar in Waukegan.

Gene: Ah... we shouldn't encourage kids to drink...

A.C. Yeah, I'd be more worried about them accessing Tumblr or KiK or xtube than pornhub. Many kids tend to realize movies are movies and not quite real. But those other sites are a lot of amateurs and individuals. Just saying.

I agree with Harty. You'd do much better to set up parental controls, and play an active role in monitoring what your children access.

Jason: (Editorial Note: Both Jason's parents worked professionally in the field of psychology.

I've always found him to be remarkably insightful about people and social situations.) Porn and access to it is nothing new. Those same kids would be passing around a swiped Hustler a decade ago. Their friends have it, your computer is filled with it. You're not going to be able to keep them from it. The disconnect I see is that porn doesn't teach us to denigrate, but not talking about it can. Our approach is talk honestly to kids about sex, sexuality, and responsibility with their bodies from when they first ask, and every time something comes up, rather than making it a taboo subject. By making it normal, removing the salaciousness and negativity from it while keeping in the idea of respecting your partner, the kids can then just enjoy it and are free to explore their personal boundaries.

A.C. Agreed. If more parents just answered questions without blowing things out of proportion, children wouldn't be so quick to look it up. There are also amazing books out there like "It's Perfectly Normal" which are helpful if you don't know what to say.

Craig: I mostly agree but whereas I think pornography was a young male thing years ago, I think more young girls see it now and feel they have to live up to certain standards. You can educate kids as much as you want but ultimately if they view porn as the perfect way to have sex, then they will try to emulate it.

Sharon: My first exposure to porn was when I was 11 and the construction crew working next to my BF's house left Hot Wax and Hustler magazines behind. We passed those around to many girls we knew, after studying them in depth. We figured out on our own that most people did not actually want hot wax dripped on their genitals, but the magazines were more interesting than they should have been because it was obvious that asking about sex was fairly taboo in our houses.

Sharon: But I felt way more pressure from teen magazines to look a certain way than I did from that porn. Thank god for Sassy magazine (and, today, for Teen Vogue).

Eric: Having 24/7 access to an ocean of pornography of pornography is something new under the sun. There's nothing redeeming about it, and it does nothing but damage. We'll reap the consequences of this development for a long, long time.

Phil: While I agree completely with your concern I'm not sure the only difference isn't technology. My education was from raunchy magazines and 8mm b&w film. It's vitally important to be sure children get a proper education at home and taught how to respect others.

Craig: The technology difference is huge though. The vast amount of pornography available coupled with women having 'perfect' bodies now makes it much worse.

Carla: There is a reason that PornHub created an educational portal

Charlotte Ann Hu I had no idea. Carla posted the pornhub educational portal link, but the review window has stripped it out.

Ronna I just read the article. I think it's a great discussion, and one parents should have. I'm going to take a different stand though. I have no issue with the site (though I do think the whole thing should require payment). The cited article actually says there is no evidence that porn is harmful. Our kids are exposed to extreme violence on tv and

in movies and often at school or in their neighborhoods every single day. That is a much bigger concern. Here's the thing parents, talk to your kids. Know who they are, who their friends are, what they are doing on their computers and phones. Be an actual and real part of their lives. Set limits and be clear about expectations. I have one teen still in the house and one who has gone off to college. I have never had issues with porn - not that it would be THAT big of an issue in my house...I would talk to them about it and explain the reality of sex is different than the fantasy of it). I have never had to block things or restrict their usage because they know their obligations to this family. Kids are going to want to know about sex. They are going to eventually have it. If you want them to be educated about it educate them.

Charlotte Ann Hu I'm reading a book called the Better Angels of Our Nature which talks about the amazing decrease in violence since the origin of humans. Specifically, the decrease in recent decades in violence and prison populations that it notes that during that time, access to violence imagery has increased specifically with the advent of shockingly violent video games. The author argues that the claim for media-inspired violence doesn't hold water.

The Better Angels of Our Nature: Why Violence Has Declined Charlotte Ann Hu More on the pornhub story. Apparently the infamous Ashley Madison website didn't have enough women, so it created them and algorithms to create fake chat to go with the fake profiles. A significant portion of men on the website weren't even talking to real women, but some committed suicide after being exposed. I'm just stunned!

The Butterfly Effect with Jon Ronson

I've learned more about the porn industry than I ever thought possible. It's a very interesting 3 and a half hours. My only gripe is that this is a series of interviews strung together, so every half an hour I had to listen to Jon Ronson listing the producer, director, sound engineer etc. etc. Mr Ronson clearly and concisely achieves his aim and demonstrates the butterfly effect of one man's actions. Some parts are funny, some weird, some grossed me out and others were achingly sad. Overall, a fascinating insight into an often taboo world.

The Butterfly Effect is an original Audible documentary. In it, Ronson explores how technology has changed the porn industry and by extension all of us. He begins by interviewing the man who used technology to create what became PornHub, a YouTube-style platform for porn. This discursive approach takes in, among other things, porn stars in the San Fernando Valley, the death of an Italian priest, and a Norwegian stamp collector. Ronson is a sensitive interviewer, letting people tell their own story. He's also a great storyteller and each episode has intriguing hooks, twists and a teaser ending so you have to keep listening. I'm almost afraid of giving spoilers, but

certain things particularly stayed with me. In Montreal, the data analysts who worked behind the scenes at Pornhub were almost oblivious (or in denial) of what they were working on. They just focused on the task. Meanwhile, a whole generation of women lost work in porn because of the search categories that they created in response to the way people access porn. Women under 20 get work in the "babysitter" and "cheerleader" categories, women over 30 get the "milf" roles, but between those ages they are unemployable. (There's an interesting analogy here with Amazon's book categories, where discoverability is increasingly driven by genre.) In another episode, Ronson is on a porn set during the making of a movie. There is an orgy scene and many of the male performers are watching porn on their phones so they can get an erection. It seems watching someone have sex with a porn star is more arousing than the imminent prospect of actually doing it. The analogy here hardly needs stating. Ronson doesn't take a position on porn per se but he considers the way in which people ignore the human consequences of porn and the way in which they simultaneously are excited by it and despise the people who work in it. Porn stars report being spotted in the street and facing hostility from the very people who have recognised them. At one point Ronson sets up an interview which is somehow both poignant and deeply ironic. An old-school San Fernando porn director whose income has dropped dramatically because of piracy challenges Pornhub's founder. The director expresses exasperation at his lack of empathy as free illegal downloads drain away his livelihood, but he asks no such questions about the effect on people of the films he makes. This documentary is thought provoking and fascinating and I listened to it in one sitting. The stories it tells are sometimes dark, often strange and occasionally moving.

I was a bit disappointed in this podcast. As others have stated, this isn't really an example of the "butterfly effect." There's nothing in here that makes you think "wow, I didn't think that this one action here would've had an effect on this other thing over there." You make porn free... a lot of people lose money - shocking, right? Nevertheless, it's an interesting documentary on the porn industry. I definitely learned some things. One thing that I thought was glaringly lacking though, is that the storytelling was limited to "women as performers, men as consumers," which I found to be a very narrow view of the subject. That I can recall, only one male porn star was interviewed. I don't recall any female consumers interviewed. I do think that it was worth the listen, but I didn't find any real "wow" factor.

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