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Patrick W. Galbraith
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(Read free) Otaku Spaces

Otaku Spaces

Patrick W. Galbraith : Otaku Spaces before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Otaku Spaces:

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. An enjoyable glance into Otaku culture.By GBLet me start off by saying that I, myself, am a big fan of anime/manga/Jrpgs/etc. I say this not to paint myself as an otaku, as I am not (though I may own a figurine or two of my favorite characters), but to help the readers understand where my review is coming from - so that those who can relate to my position might better be able to decide whether or not they are interested in this product.So, to start, the format of the book:It begins with a rather short, but helpful, introduction that speaks about how the book was done. It gives the reader a few useful definitions(which, if you are a fan of anime or Japanese culture, you're likely already familiar with) that help you understand some cultural vocabulary used in popular Otaku circles (moe, kawaii, etc). The author then presents their view of what "Otaku" can be, providing a decent history of the term and its evolution from "mania", its negative view due to certain public events, and eventually its more localized acceptance.After the introduction of "Otaku" comes the aspect I will admit drew me to the product in the first place: the pictures and interviews. Here you are introduced to plethora of individuals - from those who collect tons of figurines due to their affections towards given characters, to a man who owns a ridiculous number of dating simulation games. There are males, there are females, and they all share one thing in common: They each have their own definition of what an "Otaku" is. To some it is a prideful badge to be worn, some find the term too constraining, others feel like it has too many implications for them to fully relate to it. All in all, the interviews were enjoyable as the reader gets to experience a cast of characters in all of their interesting (and at times peculiar)

characteristics.After the interviews comes the "Otaku Location" section. You'll see pictures and learn general (and I mean general, there is much less specificity here) information about places like Akihabara - who goes there, why they go there, and what it is okay to do there. You'll also learn of a few less famous places, whether they be for fujoshi (a term you'll learn in the book) or just places with a more "otaku"esque, though not full "otaku", atmosphere.All in all, it was an enjoyable book, and I found the pictures to be great additions to the stories and interviews that went alongside them.But now we come to why I give it 4/5 instead of 5/5 stars.....The moment of truth:The book and its cover are flimsy. You'd think, given that it is a book with numerous photographs, it would be made to handle a little bit of damage - but no!Anyway, the book isn't the best piece of literature in the world, or anything close - but it does just what it promises, and it goes about it in a well presented and organized way.So if you're looking for a glimpse into Otaku life because you want to understand more, or you want something to relate to, or maybe just because you want to hear it from THEM (right from the source!) - then this book is for you.I hope this review helps some.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This book has a special place on my shelf for ...By BookwormThis book has a special place on my shelf for its innovative design and balanced view of otaku culture in Japan. Unlike the states, the term "otaku" has an extremely negative connotation in Japan, and it's refreshing to see both stories of success (like the boxer and the race queen) and despair (enter the closet-dwelling collector) in one book. Kudos to the author for showing a range of experiences.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four StarsBy eric loeschInteresting view into the lives and hobbies of Japanese popular culture enthusiasts

"Otaku Spaces sets out to explain the complicated subculture of otaku through the stories of otaku themselves...Galbraith and photographer Androniki Christodoulou allow the otaku subjects they feature to take control of their own narrative." - Wired.com Raw File"This is a terrain of contested meanings. And 'you' (the original meaning of the word otaku in Japanese) are entering it. Invite otaku into your home and heart, as they have invited you into theirs." - The Huffington Post"A peek into an otaku's bedroom or living space can be a bit of a surprise for the average person...Patrick W. Galbraith digs even deeper into the way otaku choose to decorate their surroundings, and the reasons why they choose to do so in the way that they do." - CNN "Geek Out!""The book is certainly a beautiful object...There's such an intimate air to Christodoulou's photographs that you have to imagine what the subjects are hiding...But the interviews appeal, in the end, to our commonality: A few of the subjects gently point out that if people are honest with themselves, everyone is a little bit otaku about something." - The Stranger (Starred Review)"(Galbraith) clearly knows his stuff, and also has a genuine regard and respect for people that it would be easy to make fun of. Christodoulou has a real eye for capturing the essence of the otaku world, and the large-scale format (9 by 9) and high-quality color printing in this book show her work off to its best advantage. Even if youre not an otaku yourself, Galbraith and Christodoulou do such a good job of capturing the flavor of these subcultures that reading Otaku Spaces is the next best thing to a trip to Japan." - PopMattersOtakunerd, ber-fan, obsessive collector. Since the 1980s, the term has been used to refer to fans of Japanese anime, manga, and video games. The word appeared with no translation on the cover of the premier issue of Wired magazine in 1993.Patrick W. Galbraith has produced a groundbreaking work of reportage that takes us beyond the stereotypes of "weird Japan" and into the private rooms of self-described otaku. Interviews and more than fifty color photos reveal a seldom seen side of these reclusive Japanese collectors. They talk frankly about their collections of blow-up dolls, comic books, military paraphernalia, anime videos, and more.Galbraith follows the collectors to their favorite shops and shows how public space in Japan is starting to mimic the look and feel of the otaku's private room. He also interviews Japan's top cultural critics, helping to place otaku culture in wider sociological and economic contexts. Galbraith broadens his interview focus even further to include otaku from the United States and the United Kingdom, forcing those of us who live in any hyper-consumerist culture to admit that we can and do have otaku tendencies.Patrick W. Galbraitha self-described otaku with the anime tattoos to prove itis a PhD student at the University of Tokyo and the author of The Otaku Encyclopedia (Kodansha Limited). He also blogs at the popular Otaku2 and is widely considered one of the foremost American experts on Japan's pop culture.Androniki Christodoulou is a freelance photographer based in Tokyo, Japan.

"(Galbriath has) cosplayed as Super Saiyan Goku from Dragon Ball Z and led audio tours of Akihabara not just as a scholar, but as a participant. That gives him a different perspective than some of his more theoretically minded colleagues. And it goes hand-in-hand with a strong sense of responsibility toward his subjects. With Otaku Spaces, he consciously set out to counter the myth of Miyazaki, the madman alone in his room...His check is the people he talks with, often spending hours on a single interview. As his work reveals, they can speak candidly and with remarkable self-awareness about being otaku whatever that means to them. Far from Miyazaki's empty room, they occupy spaces of life, surrounded by the things they love and eager to tell their own stories." - The Verge"Anyone who identifies as a fan of manga or anime should have a look inside, as well as anyone who calls themselves a collector. The themes are universal" - Collectors' Quest"A truly interesting book and a definite must have for fans of Japanese pop culture." - Forces of Geek"An enlightening and engaging volume...easy to recommend to anyone interested in otaku specifically

or in Japanese pop culture in general." - Experiments in Manga