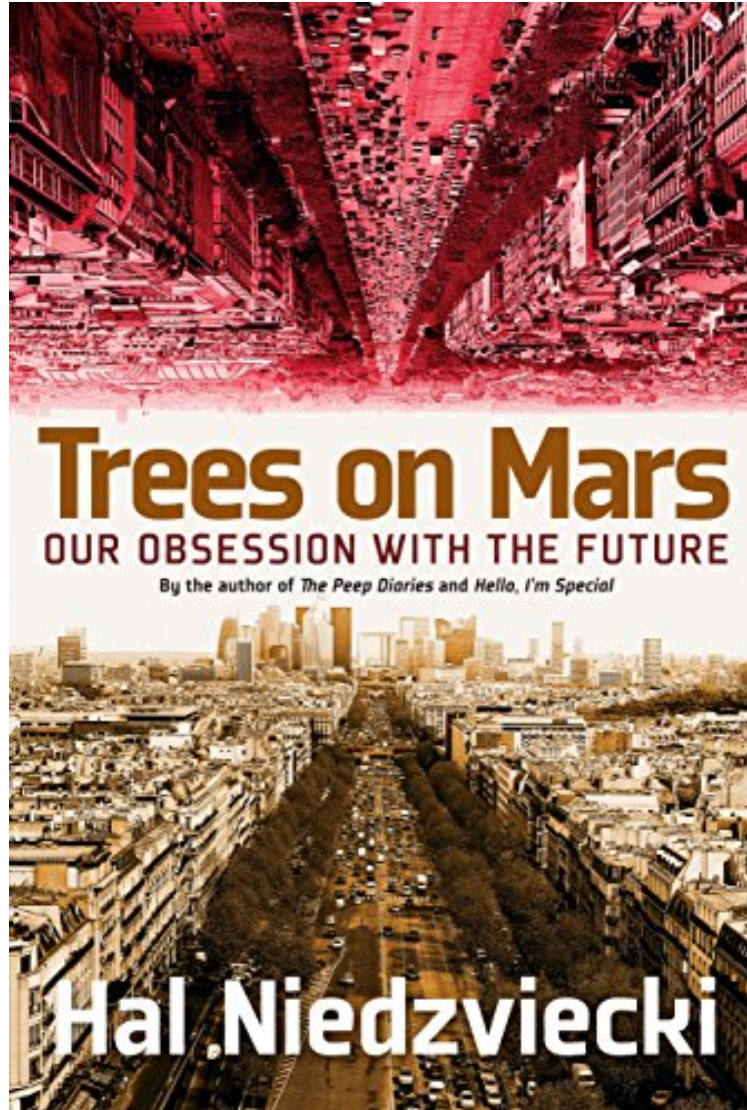


(Download free ebook) Trees on Mars: Our Obsession with the Future

## Trees on Mars: Our Obsession with the Future

*Hal Niedzviecki*

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**Hal Niedzviecki : Trees on Mars: Our Obsession with the Future** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Trees on Mars: Our Obsession with the Future:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. "The future ain't what it used to be." Yogi BerraBy John David Lionel BrookeThis was a well researched, documented and depressing read into the many faceted gem stone we humans have built for ourselves. Polished and glistening with reflected promises of robotics and artificial intelligence. Of course there are tragic flaws in this man made perfect jewel. Shades of big brother lurk in it's Orwellian luster, and shadows of Brave New World echo from the dystopian depths of what we humans have wrought. We have become just another 'Brick In The Wall.' We are the future now, far out beyond the point of no-return as prophesied in '70's by

Joni Mitchell's in "Big Yellow Taxi: They paved paradise And put up a parking lot With a pink hotel, a boutique And a swinging hot spot Don't it always seem to go That you don't know what you've got Till it's gone hellip; ""When all the trees have been cut down, when all the animals have been hunted, when all the waters are polluted, when all the air is unsafe to breathe, only then will you discover you cannot eat money." Cree Prophecy The author offers no pat solutions to change rampant thirst of our declining spiritual worthiness for human life. A five star depressingly honest read for me. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Are you pedalling faster but getting nowhere? By P. Friel This is a great, albeit pessimistic book. I heard Hal Niedzviecki interviewed on To the Best of Our Knowledge from Wisconsin Public Radio, and ordered Trees On Mars immediately. In it, he gives us a lot to think about. He argues that our quality of life is declining despite Moore's Law and all its consequences, as well as the frantic pace of so many of our lives. Despite our material abundance, many of us sense that we have lost the thread of living in a civilized way. Many businesses seem to operate as rackets. Narcissism is rampant. I finished the book while taking my wife to a Podiatrist appointment at the University Sports Medicine Clinic, and did the book ever resonate! Despite having been seen at the clinic 6 months earlier, they couldn't find my wife in their computer system ("We changed databases recently"). The printer connected to the computer connected to the X-ray machine was broken. Later in the visit we met with their orthotic/shoe expert, who told us that NONE of the major shoe manufacturers does any quality control anymore, so much of their inventory is garbage. He spends a lot of his time grinding down the heels of patients' new shoes so they make a reasonably square contact with the ground. We drove home and I switched on the TV - they were interviewing John Bogle, the founder of Vanguard, about the recent stock market downdraft. It sounded like something I could learn from. Only I couldn't watch it because our cable feed (for which we pay a lot) was so unstable that only one word out of three was audible. Thank you Hal for telling it like it is! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Required reading for futurists By Sami Makelainen The audience that most needs Trees on Mars are futurists; especially the variety the common techno-utopian variety. For them, it will be a confrontational book, and they're likely to try to claim it's inaccurate and/or just wrong. After the first 100 pages one might think - like I did, really - along the lines of "yes but so what?". But persevere in reading, because it ramps up from there, and finishes in a very thought-provoking manner which will more than likely expand your perspective in a way that causes you to never to view the future in the same light. I would still recommend the book for general audience as well; many are likely to find a welcome, alternative narrative from the pages of Trees on Mars. What comes to weaknesses, Trees on Mars doesn't directly quote much data (only via references), but unfortunately based on the not-insignificant amount of data I've seen, the data supports the views.

The future is big right now dash; for perhaps the first time, our society is more focused on what is going to happen in the future than what is happening right now. Trees on Mars: Our Obsession with the Future, cultural critic and indie entrepreneur Hal Niedzviecki asks how and when we started believing we could and should "create the future." What is it like to live in a society utterly focused on what is going to happen next? Through visits to colleges, corporations, tech conferences, factories and more, Niedzviecki traces the story of how owning the future has become irresistible to us. In deep conversation with both the beneficiaries and victims of our relentless obsession with the future, Niedzviecki asks crucial questions: Where are we actually heading? How will we get there? And whom may we be leaving behind?

"Hal Niedzviecki's urgent, eye-opening Trees on Mars exposes our mania for the future as exactly what it is: an ideology as narrow and dangerous as any we've known from history. Read this book and be the first on your block to recall the rebel thrill of living in the present." - J.B. MacKinnon, author of The Once and Future World: Nature As It Was, As It Is, As It Could Be About the Author One of North America's smartest and most explosive contrarians, HAL NIEDZVIECKI is a writer, speaker, and culture commentator known for challenging preconceptions and exploring the new patterns of tech-infused everyday life. He is the author of three previous books of nonfiction, including The Peep Diaries: How We're Learning to Love Watching Ourselves and Our Neighbors and Hello, I'm Special: How Individuality Became the New Conformity. The Peep Diaries was made into a television documentary entitled Peep Culture, produced for the CBC and shown at festivals and on television in six countries. Niedzviecki's articles on contemporary life have appeared in newspapers, periodicals, and journals across the world including New York Times Magazine, Playboy, Utne Reader, and Globe and Mail. He serves as publisher and fiction editor of Broken Pencil, the seminal indie culture publication that he founded in 1995. Niedzviecki grew up in the suburbs of Washington DC, and currently lives in Toronto with his wife and two daughters. For more information, see his website, [AlongCameTomorrow.com](http://AlongCameTomorrow.com). From the eBook edition.