

***Notes from the Internet Apocalypse* by Wayne Gladstone
Thomas Dunne Books, 2014**

Discussion Questions

1. Which of the imagined consequences of an Internet Apocalypse actually seemed realistic and possible?
2. Did the book reference any Internet cultures you were previously unaware of? Did you feel any need to know more about them having read the book?
3. The book is filled with references to both pop culture and literature. Which ones stuck with you?
 - a. Can you spot references to *Mystery Science Theater*, *Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy*, *Hot Fuzz*, Kafka, Melville, and Dostoevsky?
4. How reliable a narrator is Gladstone? What details might be wholly incorrect? What might be exaggerated?
 - a. At what point did you suspect Gladstone's recounting of events might be flawed?
5. What is the significance of the repeated images of Oz behind glass?
6. What activities do you think would gain resurgence if there were an Internet Apocalypse?
7. What effect is the author achieving by combining raunchy humor with more emotional prose passages?
 - a. At what points in the novel do the two styles typically emerge?
8. Tobey says the loss of the Internet allows them to recreate themselves. Is that true or does the presence of the Net allow for more reinvention?
9. What would you miss most in an Internet Apocalypse?
10. At the climax, it is said that the Internet is just a way for millions of sad people all over the world to be alone together? Do you agree or is that just Gladstone's reality?
11. The book ranks the sincerity of human communication with letters first and foremost, followed by verbal communication, and texts and IMs as the least sincere form of contact. Do you agree with that order?

12. What is the psychological significance to Gladstone that Oz is repeatedly trying to get him to read letters and documents?
13. What is the effect of having an author and main character who share a name?
14. Is there a difference between a book that deals with coarse and seedy elements and a book that is, itself, coarse and seedy? Does *Notes from the Internet Apocalypse* condone or satirize the darker elements of Internet life and communication?
15. Given that *Notes from the Internet Apocalypse* is the first book in a trilogy, what are your predictions for book two?