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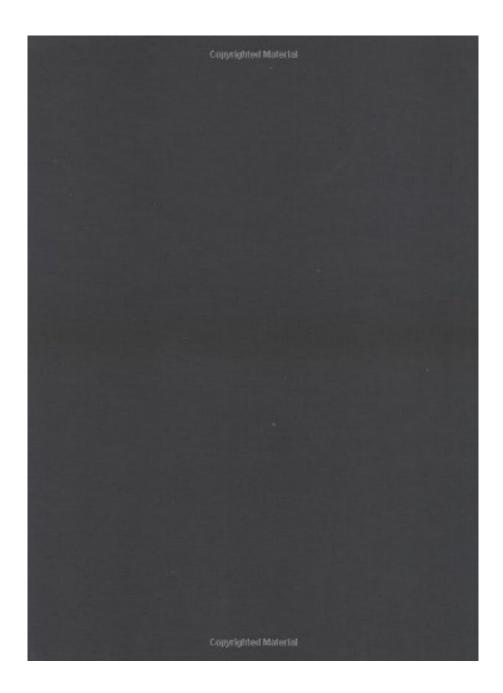

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Amazon.com Review
Bucking the received wisdom of the wired elite, the authors collected in Reload: Rethinking Women + Cyberculture suggest that when we log on, we take our genders with us. Editors Mary Flanagan and Austin Booth balance penetrating critical theory with examples of fiction from authors like Octavia Butler, Amy Thomson, and C.L. Moore. The mix can be thought-provoking, but requires some quick shifting of mental gears to follow the arguments from essay to fiction and back again.

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Eleanor J. Bader, Brooklyn, NY
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Most writing on cyberculture is dominated by two almost mutually exclusive visions: the heroic image of the male outlaw hacker and the utopian myth of a gender-free cyberworld. Reload offers an alternative picture of cyberspace as a complex and contradictory place where there is oppression as well as liberation. It shows how cyberpunk's revolutionary claims conceal its ultimate conservatism on matters of class, gender, and race. The cyberfeminists writing here view cyberculture as a social experiment with an as-yet-unfulfilled potential to create new identities, relationships, and cultures.The book brings together women's cyberfiction--fiction that explores the relationship between people and virtual technologies--and feminist theoretical and critical investigations of gender and technoculture. From a variety of viewpoints, the writers consider the effects of rapid and profound technological change on culture, in particular both the revolutionary and reactionary effects of cyberculture on women's lives. They also explore the feminist implications of the cyborg, a human-machine hybrid. The writers challenge the conceptual and institutional rifts between high and low culture, which are embedded in the texts and artifacts of cyberculture.

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