



# Cybertraps for the Young

*Frederick S. Lane*

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## **Cybertraps for the Young** Frederick S. Lane

Approaching the risks for children on the Internet in a thought-provoking and intellectual manner, this study skillfully integrates contemporary news reports and disturbing legal cases to show how Facebook and other ready-made forums for information exchange are breaking down boundaries of privacy and facilitating a growing number of criminal convictions for cyberbullying, child pornography, hacking, and copyright infringement. Also included is a discussion of how the widespread use of camera phones, mobile tablets, and social media sites has given rise to a new and dangerous practice among teens: sexting. This reference provides parents with an authoritative lesson in cyberethics and practical instructions for instituting household internet policies, as well as school officials and communities with lessons on how to educate children about the responsible use of emerging mobile technologies.

## **Cybertraps for the Young Details**

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# From Reader Review *Cybertraps for the Young* for online ebook

## **Craig Kind says**

A bit dense in places, and sure to be outdated in many ways within a few years, Lane's book is an important twist on parenting books on technology. Rather than focus on the child as victim, Lane gives valuable insight into how kids can be, for lack of a better word, perpetrators as much as victims.

Lane gives concrete advice on how to instill values for a cyber age, and he is not shy about telling parents how they need to play an active role in making sure kids live up to those values.

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## **Shelleyrae at Book'd Out says**

As a relatively cyber savvy parent I have made every effort to ensure my teenage daughter is educated about the pitfalls of online communication. We discussed the issues regarding privacy, the dangers of online predators, viruses, and many of the other traps that Lane outlines in this book. Initially we monitored her use of her mobile phone, computer and the internet but as she grew older it was more difficult to insist on access as she naturally became more independent and electronic communication became a feature of her social life. Despite our efforts, and with the disregard for consequences that plague adolescence, she made a stupid mistake, all the more shocking to me because I sincerely never thought it was likely to happen for any number of reasons - not the least being she had been educated about the risks of making poor choices. Luckily it was something we were able to reverse but I quickly realised just how easy it is for an otherwise sensible teenager to give into an impulse and potentially derail their future.

In *Cybertraps for the Young*, Lane examines the issues that children face online with regard to the legal ramifications of careless communication. Covering topics such as cyber bullying, identity theft, online gambling, fraud and sexting, he uses examples from the headlines to illustrate cases that have resulted in criminal and civil liability for the teenage perpetrators. The law is slowly but surely catching up with new technologies and online users are increasingly being held accountable for their virtual actions.

Lane emphasises the need for the digital native generation to be educated about the responsible use of technology. Few consider the ease and scale in which sensitive information can be used against them both immediately and in the future. Fewer still are aware that they are not as invisible as they may think they are when they navigate the net with fake usernames. In this age of information, anonymity on the internet is a myth that children fail to appreciate.

Lane's specific interpretation of the American legal statutes had only peripheral relevance to me, but I expect that the laws would be similar in most first world countries, including my own. I do think the information is valuable in that it provides parents with an example of concrete consequences to share with their child.

Children need to be aware that their virtual behaviour has the same potential for implications as their real world behaviour, and they have the same, if not better chance of being caught.

Lane also offers some practical suggestions for parents wishing to better monitor electronic usage and has established a companion website for additional resources and latest information.

In order to protect our children from both themselves and others, adults need to be aware of the issues they face in the digital age. While the text can be a bit dry in places, *Cybertraps for the Young* is an informative resource for parents and educators who are concerned about their child's online participation.

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## **Elizabeth B says**

I pride myself on being involved with a website that is exceptionally well run. It's a family friendly site and, frankly, has some of the smartest people on the internet as members. The ages range from youth to adult and helping keep all of them safe online is part of the staff's main objectives. Until you are in this position, you honestly don't realize how little people safeguard their own lives. We constantly have to peruse the site and remove posts, private information, details that could and should not be revealed in order to keep cyberstalking and such at bay. We do what a lot (okay most) sites won't: we make an effort to keep members safe when either they or their parents just don't give a rats ass. The things we can't do? They are all in this book.

Having my online experience (and knowing the insane things that can happen there) I approached this book a bit differently than the average parent might. But, make no mistake, this book is written for every parent. Seeing that the author is a lawyer and the topic involves legal issues may scare off many readers. Don't let it. This is information you NEED to read in a fashion that makes sense. If I had my way it would be required reading on our site for both parents and the kids. This book takes things from a basic starting point (what is sexting, for example) and tells you what you need to be aware of. Unlike books that preach to you/your teen "don't do this" but give little information as to why ("it's just bad") this book provides exceptionally detail including case histories that demonstrate how much trouble your online life can cause you. For all those teens who think they are too young to be prosecuted for anything done online, this book will be the ultimate wakeup call. From simple mistakes to moronic activities, parents and teens will get a look inside the consequences they can face and the legal ethics behind them.

With simple language, this book clearly defines the potential consequences and "traps" that online users can fall into without even realizing it. It's an enlightening book and, honestly, should be not only in every home but actually READ by anyone who regularly uses the internet which, nowadays, means pretty much everyone needs to absorb this book.

(ARC Galley Proof)

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