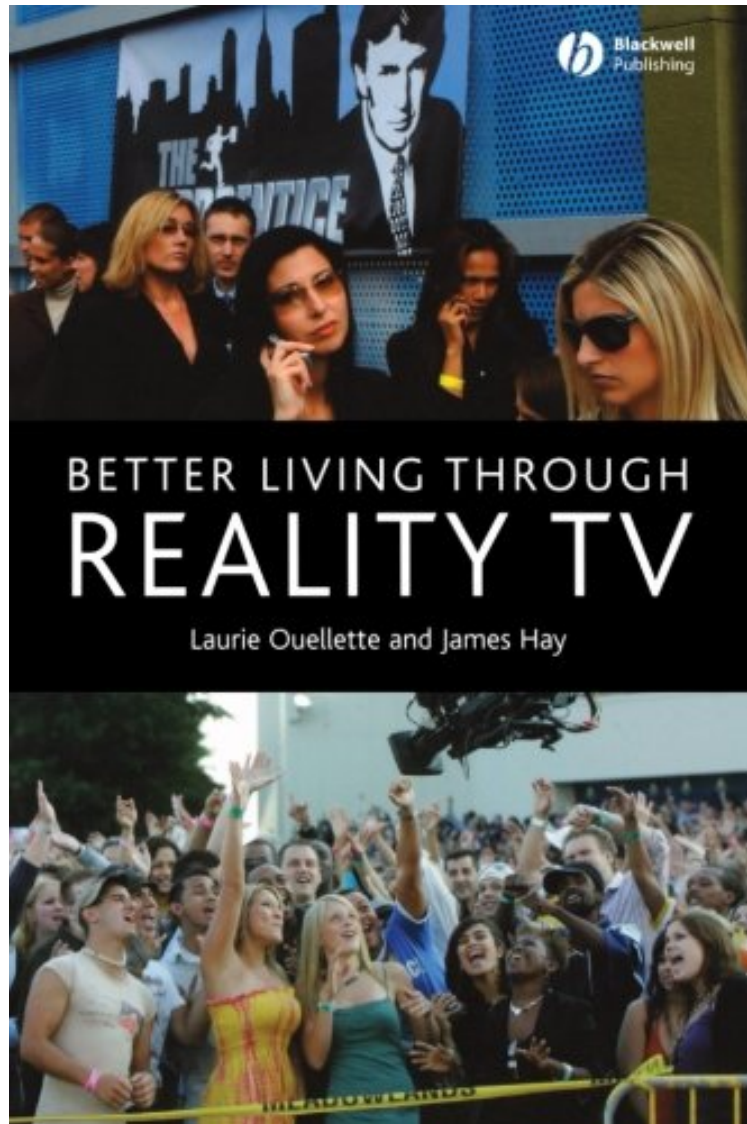


(Pdf free) Better Living Through Reality TV: Television and Post-Welfare Citizenship

Better Living Through Reality TV: Television and Post-Welfare Citizenship

Laurie Ouellette, James Hay

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Laurie Ouellette, James Hay : Better Living Through Reality TV: Television and Post-Welfare Citizenship before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Better Living Through Reality TV: Television and Post-Welfare Citizenship:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy amber grahamGood deal.0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. This was a good purchase.By Kaylene GeorgeThere was more writing an highlighting in the

book than I had anticipated, but I can read the book, so it is okay. 9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Re-Thinking Reality TV By Werner Wilson Better Living Through Reality TV is thoughtful and insightful investigation of the politics of reality television. These authors remind us of the history of reality-based programming in the United States and make a convincing argument as to why reality TV proliferates and thrives today. They link the recent explosion of reality programs--from charity shows like Extreme Makeover: Home Edition to competitions like Survivor--to transformations within our political and social culture. These recent changes have to do with the adoption of neo-liberal policies by the US government that seek to privatize social services and demand that citizens take more responsibility for their lives. They argue that reality TV offers citizens a vast array of templates for navigating these changes, and thus becomes a partner in government. My favorite chapter is entitled "Makeover TV: Labors of Reinvention." Here the authors discuss the demands of contemporary work life in relation to makeover shows. They show how makeover programs connect to a need for workers to become CEOs of themselves in order to stay afloat (or at least try) in the new "flexible" economy. This book raises a whole new set of questions about reality TV. Less concerned with the "reality" of the shows, these authors force us to confront the realities of our contemporary culture. This book is perhaps less for fans and more for those who want to think deeply about contemporary television and its relationship to the pressing political and social issues of our time. Despite the academic nature of this book, I think committed readers interested in popular culture will find it incredibly useful and provocative. Students of television have no excuse: you must read this book.

Combining cutting-edge theories of culture and government with programming examples including Todd TV, Survivor, and American Idol Better Living through Reality TV moves beyond the established concerns of political economy and cultural studies to conceptualize television's evolving role in the contemporary period. A major textbook on the impact of reality and lifestyle television on today's programming, and on broader social, cultural and political trends Draws on a range of examples from The Apprentice and American Idol to Extreme Makeover and Wife Swap Argues that reality television teaches viewers to monitor, motivate, improve, transform and protect themselves in the name of freedom, enterprise, and personal responsibility

"Better Living through Reality TV achieves what cultural theory does at its best: a fascinating, insightful, and clear-eyed look at contemporary society as seen through the lens of pop culture." --Mark Andrejevic "With this book, reality TV finally 'gets real'." --Nick Couldry "Better Living through Reality TV achieves what cultural theory does at its best: a fascinating, insightful, and clear-eyed look at contemporary society as seen through the lens of pop culture." --Mark Andrejevic "With this book, reality TV scholarship finally 'gets real'." --Nick Couldry From the Back Cover From The Apprentice to Extreme Makeover, reality television has transformed network and cable television. Whether it is learning to succeed in business, navigating the rough waters of romance, managing our health or wallets, or perfecting the profile of our faces, reality television dispenses a powerful prescription for ways to live and conduct ourselves as neo-liberal citizen-subjects, who increasingly are expected to take responsibility for our own welfare in the aftermath of the Great Society. Better Living through Reality TV asserts that reality television is a cultural technology through which we have come to monitor, motivate, improve, transform, and protect ourselves in the name of freedom, enterprise, and personal responsibility. Combining cutting-edge theories of culture and government with programming examples including Todd TV, Survivor, and American Idol Better Living through Reality TV moves beyond the established concerns of political economy and cultural studies to conceptualize television's evolving role in the contemporary period.