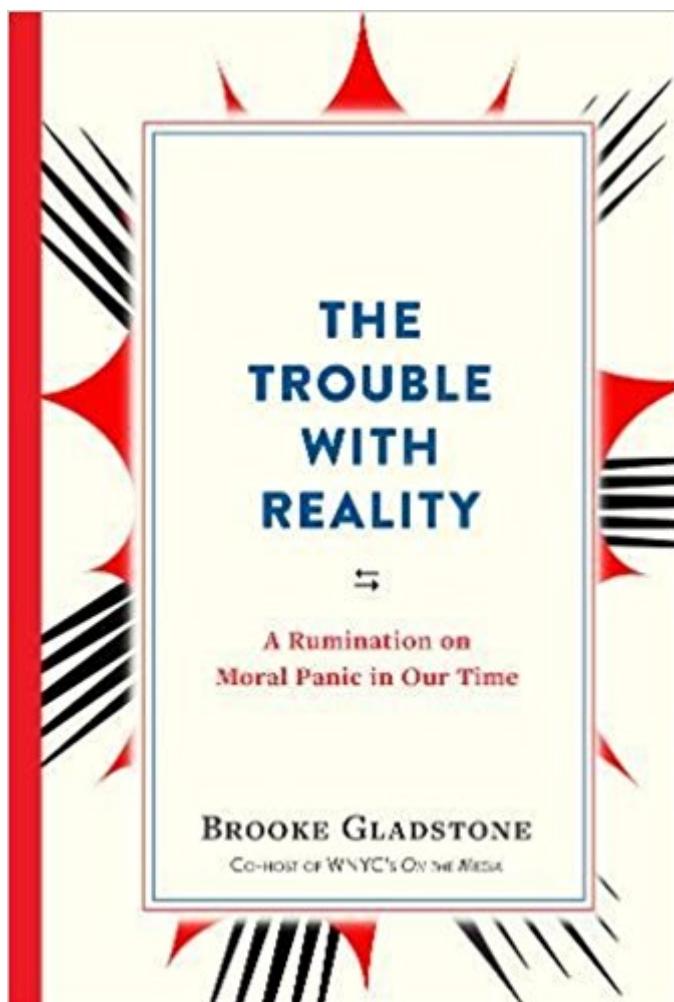


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The Trouble With Reality: A Rummation On Moral Panic In Our Time



Synopsis

Every week on the public radio show *On the Media*, the award-winning journalist Brooke Gladstone analyzes the media and how it shapes our perceptions of the world. Now, from her front-row perch on the day's events, Gladstone brings her genius for making insightful, unexpected connections to help us understand what she calls "and what so many of us can acknowledge having" "trouble with reality." Reality, as she shows us, was never what we thought it was "there is always a bubble, people are always subjective and prey to stereotypes. And that makes reality actually more vulnerable than we ever thought. Enter Donald J. Trump and his team of advisors. For them, as she writes, lying is the point. The more blatant the lie, the easier it is to hijack reality and assert power over the truth. Drawing on writers as diverse as Hannah Arendt, Walter Lippmann, Philip K. Dick, and Jonathan Swift, she dissects this strategy, straight out of the authoritarian playbook, and shows how the Trump team mastered it, down to the five types of tweets that Trump uses to distort our notions of what "real and what" "not. And she offers hope. There is meaningful action, a time-tested treatment for moral panic. And there is also the inevitable reckoning. History tells us we can count on it. Brief and bracing, *The Trouble with Reality* shows exactly why so many of us didn't see it coming, and how we can recover both our belief in reality "and our sanity. A

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Customer Reviews

"A battle plan for individuals anxiously watching the edifice of reality

collapse. "The New Yorker" Brooke Gladstone has whipped up a short stiff drink of truth. You'll be better for taking it." George Packer, author of *The Unwinding* "A spirited rampage through the hall of mirrors that is the new post-truth era. I read this in one sitting, and at end, for a fleeting moment, felt like I had a new hammer in my hand." Jad Abumrad, co-host of *Radio Lab*

Brooke Gladstone is the co-host and editor of the Peabody Award-winning radio show and podcast *On the Media* from WNYC Studios, heard by well over a million people each week. She's also author of *The Influencing Machine*, a comic book treatise on two millennia of media madness. She lives in Brooklyn, New York.

This slim volume reads like an extended monologue on *On the Media*, which is pretty much what I was hoping for when I bought it. Brooke's insightful observations give careful weight to a number of the different perspectives that led us to now without being condescending towards either side, while recognizing that her perspectives all come from her own understanding of reality. I tune in to *On the Media* every week precisely for Bob & Brooke's unique blend of cynicism, analysis, and, oddly enough, hope. I will absolutely be getting this for friends and relatives.

This thought-provoking essay takes on the battle between discourse and disarray in the war between rationality and passion. It won't make you feel better about the weaponization of communications, but it will relieve you of some of your blissful ignorance.

I love Brooke Gladstone on *On The Media* podcast and always thought that she had sober opinions and was able to take a birds eye view of our turbulent current events. Her book offered the same historical perspective that I expect from her and I loved delving deeper into her view point. Although sometimes frightening, her book provided much needed context about how our obsession with pop culture, social media, and reality tv has been turned back on us like a carnival mirror. I would highly recommend this book if you like history, cultural critiques, and a good dose of Orwell or Huxley.

She writes very well and has much to say that is very helpful at this time. An excellent book.

Like Timothy Snyder's book, "On Tyranny", this is a must read for our times.

A straightforward discussion of news sources, biased and unbiased, and pitfalls to avoid.

Interesting book, quite short but thought provoking.

Interesting reflection. Must read and read again...

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