

Chapter 1 : Review: "Ascent of the A-Word"™ by Geoffrey Nunberg

My excitement for Ascent of the A-Word was generated because, after reading so much junk of this topic, I was so impressed with this book. It is so fun, so well-written, and so important because Nunberg gets at many of the root causes of what is wrong with our society and organizations.

Reading between the lines. The A-hole in the Mirror On being that guy. Illustration by Laura Terry. A friend of mine who grew up in Los Angeles once declared that transplants to Gotham only truly become New Yorkers when they exchange the exhortation "motherfucker," which, to be sure, has a satisfying sting, for "cocksucker"â€”a designation more mellifluous, the ugliness behind its origin notwithstanding. There are assholes everywhere; the fact that cities are so densely packed simply provides us with more frequent opportunities for contact with them. Anyone who has ever driven on a highway, attempted to make a quick purchase in the express aisle at the grocery, or attended a family holiday gathering has encountered an asshole. While so many of our natural resources seem to be running short these days, the supply of assholes appears to be a growth industry with unlimited upside. But who and what exactly is the asshole? Two new books attempt to answer the question. A Theory focus on this commonplace scourge. Both books acknowledge their sizable debt to Harry G. A person counts as an asshole when, and only when, he systematically allows himself to enjoy special advantages in interpersonal relations out of an entrenched sense of entitlement that immunizes him against the complaints of other people. Asshole launches its attack from the ground level, in the name of ordinary Joes, people whose moral authority derives not from their rank or breeding but from their authenticity, which is exactly the thing that the asshole lacks. Ascent of the A-Word author Geoffrey Nunberg. Photo by Nicole Katano. Advertisement As general summary, these definitions are difficult to argue with. One might, in fact, wonder whether these books are strictly necessary, given that we all pretty much know what makes an asshole an asshole. But both works are enjoyable in their own right; those more interested in language will take more away from Nunberg, who is the livelier of the two writers, while seekers of philosophical meaning will find much to ponder with James. More importantly, they make us confront a crucial question, which, I believe, we ask ourselves all too infrequently: How much of an asshole am I? Forget those times you have been unpleasant to a customer service representative no matter how convinced you were that you were completely in the right. Instead, if you dare, allow yourself to summon up a Big Cringe. You may have been a drunk asshole, you may have been an insensitive asshole, you may even have been an accidental asshole, but there is no getting around it: You were an asshole. I offer you my most sincere sympathies. Indeed, sometimes I spend my entire day in a near-catatonic state of shame and regret. After a friend lost a not-insubstantial amount of money on a risky but tenable proposition, I passed the better part of a week forwarding him various spam come-ons, with the subject line: I once went three hours listening to someone very close to me describe, in choked-up detail, the end of a relationship that had lasted six years, which coincided with her being laid off from her job. Yes, I am that kind of asshole. You know someone like me. You are inexplicably friends with someone like me. Perhaps you have, on one or two regrettable occasions, been someone like me. For we are all the asshole every now and again. For an asshole of my caliber, there is, I am sorry to say, no chance for redemption. The fact that I am actually claiming superiority in the arena of assholery proves, I think, what an asshole I actually am. But the beauty of these two light-hearted yet thought-provoking books is that they identify the characteristics that make us, however involuntarily, assholes. Our capacity for love and compassionâ€”the better angels of our nature, as it wereâ€”is what we like to think makes us special as a species, but without the other side of that coin, we would, in fact, be only angels. It is being an asshole that rounds out the whole flawed condition of our existence. It also keeps things interesting. Still, let me offer this:

Chapter 2 : Ascent of the A-Word by Geoffrey Nunberg and Assholes a Theory by Aaron James, reviewed.

Ascent of the A-Word: Assholism, the First Sixty Years is a book by the American linguist Geoffrey Nunberg which

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analyzes the history of the epithet "asshole".

Chapter 3 : Ascent of the A-Word Quotes by Geoffrey Nunberg

Ascent of the A-Word This is my new web site; my old Berkeley home page is here. It first appeared in the gripes of GIs during World War II; the first literary character to bear the description appeared in Norman Mailer's war novel The Naked and the Dead ("Lieutenant (sg) Dove, USNR.

Chapter 4 : ASCENT OF THE A-WORD by Geoffrey Nunberg | Kirkus Reviews

The Ascent of a Leader is written for ordinary people-mothers, husbands, bosses, secretaries, pastors, teachers, and students-who want to develop extraordinary character, find and follow God's plan for their lives, and lead others where they need to go.

Chapter 5 : Ascent of the A-Word - Great River Regional Library - OverDrive

The idea that asshole could be a proxy for the fraying fabric of public life first struck me in , just before things got really squirrely. I was writing about the language of politics and.

Chapter 6 : Ascent of the A-Word: Assholism, the First Sixty Years | UC Berkeley School of Information

"Ascent of the A-Word" is especially good at distinguishing "asshole" from other epithets. While phoniness, Nunberg claims, is strictly a matter of behavior, the actions of an asshole stem from.

Chapter 7 : Ascent of the A-Word - Wikipedia

Geoffrey Nunberg's Ascent of the A-word () is as much about crude language, as it about the concept, or the modern phenomenon it stands for, and the values it expresses. Nunberg is a fine writer, and I enjoyed this book more than I expected to.

Chapter 8 : Ascent Of The A Word Book â€“ PDF Download

The point of this book, more than anything else, is that the ascent of the A-word and the attention it gets says a great deal about who we've become. So what makes being an asshole different from being, say, a jerk or a prick?

Chapter 9 : Ascent of the A Word Review: How the Word Asshole Came to Be

Ascent of the A-Word Quotes (showing of 8) "Donald Trump comes closer than anyone else to being the archetype of the species; crossing genres, he exemplifies all the ways an asshole can capture our attention.