



Your Hate Mail Will Be Graded: A Decade of Whatever, 1998-2008

John Scalzi

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

Your Hate Mail Will Be Graded: A Decade of Whatever, 1998-2008

John Scalzi

Your Hate Mail Will Be Graded: A Decade of Whatever, 1998-2008 John Scalzi

On September 13, 1998, John Scalzi sat down in front of his computer to write the first entry in his blog "Whatever" -- and changed the history of the Internet as we know it today.

What, you're not swallowing that one? Okay, fine: He started writing the "Whatever" and amused about 15 people that first day. If that many. But he kept at it, for ten years and running. Now 40,000 people drop by on a daily basis to see what he's got to say.

About what? Well, about whatever: Politics, writing, family, war, popular culture and cats (especially with bacon on them). Sometimes he's funny. Sometimes he's serious (mostly he's sarcastic). Sometimes people agree with him. Sometimes they send him hate mail, which he grades on originality and sends back. Along the way, Scalzi's become a best-selling, award-winning author, a father, and a geek celebrity. But no matter what, there's always another Whatever to amuse and/or enrage his readers.

Your Hate Mail Will Be Graded collects some of the best and most popular Whatever entries over the history of the blog, from some of the very first entries right up into 2008. It's a decade of Whatever, presented in delightfully random form -- just the way it should be.

Your Hate Mail Will Be Graded: A Decade of Whatever, 1998-2008 Details

Date : Published 2008 by Subterranean
ISBN : 9781596062115
Author : John Scalzi
Format : Hardcover 368 pages
Genre : Nonfiction, Humor, Writing, Essays, Language

 [Download Your Hate Mail Will Be Graded: A Decade of Whatever, 19 ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Your Hate Mail Will Be Graded: A Decade of Whatever, ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Your Hate Mail Will Be Graded: A Decade of Whatever, 1998-2008
John Scalzi

From Reader Review Your Hate Mail Will Be Graded: A Decade of Whatever, 1998-2008 for online ebook

Misha Husnain Ali says

I expected a lot from this book. In the spirit of full disclosure, I have never read John Scalzi's blog before this book.

I was warned in the foreword, but the lack a theme to the arrangement of the posts in this book was a little jarring. The posts included in this book seemed to revolve Scalzi's random musings on various subjects such as:

* American Politics: These were mostly thoughts about Clinton, Bush and Gore. Non-Americans like me may find these a bit dull. There were also a few posts about various political factions in the Unites States and how Scalzi feels an equal amount of disdain for them.

* Parenting: This was mostly Scalzi talking about how great it is to be a dad and the parenting style he adopts with his daughter, Athena. After the first essay, I understood that Athena is a very intelligent child with a very cool childhood because her parents are great (and not assholes). Other parents may find this interesting, but parenting theories usually bore me. It is worth a mention that it is obvious that he idolizes his wife as an ideal strong, beautiful woman but he went on about that a bit too much during the course of the book for my taste. Perhaps these posts stretched out over a longer period negate this problem.

* Writing Tips for Writers: Maybe I have read too many books on writing (something I would never consider true otherwise) but most of Scalzi's advice for writers seemed more of the same. Perhaps new writers would find this interesting in a writing book on its own. In a few posts, the "look how successful I am" theme wore thin. Additionally, I am not sure "marry someone who is successful at a stable job" is valid advice for writers, but what do I know.

* Financial Management Tips for Writers: This was another series of posts that seemed fairly obvious to me and I have no idea whether Scalzi's claims about most writers being terrible about money is true or not. While it was great to find out roughly how well Szalzi has been doing financially, how much his mortgage is, etc., I was a bit bored here as well. Again, this would probably have been better in a short book about writing and the business of writing.

Aside from these, there were some interesting bits about women's sanitary products, clones (my favorite), Muppets and other topics of the day. I found these miscellaneous posts more entertaining than the categories listed above. As a result, I tolerated most of this book and only enjoyed a small subset of the content, which is why I would give this book a 3/5. At least it's well written!

Judy says

I thoroughly enjoyed this book. It is a compilation, in random order, of blog posts over about 10 years from Scalzi's blog Whatever. Some of the blog posts are more engaging than others, but Scalzi is so adept at expressing himself in just the right way that all of them were at least interesting. I have read most of his books but had not read Whatever until I picked up this book. It's one of those books I read from occasionally, which is why it took so long to read it. I'm always reading 3 books at once. I especially got a kick out of his posts on the Bush/Kerry election since I read them during the latest election fiasco, Clinton/Trump. Scalzi

loves to rant, and I often agree with his point of view, but it is his writing style and clarity of thought that really speak to me.

Michael says

One of the funniest books I have read in a long time. Acerbic is about the best way to describe it.

Meghan says

This is a solid 3.5 stars. I liked it but didn't love it. Mostly because this is a collection of his blog posts (not essays but I didn't have a blog shelf). The problem I have with collections is that there's no narrative thread as with a novel or even a biography. It's random thoughts strung together. Now these were grouped somewhat by similar subject matter but my issue was it just got tedious. You cannot binge threads. There's a level of redundancy that just makes you want to scream "ok! Got it!" I have no patience for it. It's fine reading one a day on my Facebook feed but that makes this an incredibly long book to read.

But I like Scalzi's way of thinking. I don't always agree with him but he posits it humorously enough that it's palatable. My issue actually was when I did agree with him. It felt like he was preaching to the choir and I wanted to read more about dinosaurs in space (Spoiler: there are no dinosaurs in space in this book).

But what bumped it up for me from 3 stars is what he wrote about poverty. We need more articles like that. We need every day to be reminded that there should be NO shame in poverty.

But then I had to take half a star away because he picked pie over cake when clearly that is the wrong answer unless you pick Boston Creme Pie which is the best of both worlds mostly because you get cake instead of pie.

I'll stick to his novels but it was an interesting time capsule for my generation.

Lianne Burwell says

I thoroughly enjoyed this book. Unlike *Sleeping Naked is Green* (one of the other books I've read this year that started as a blog), this is more of a traditional collection of blog posts, printed verbatim. But John Scalzi is an engaging writer with a biting sense of humor.

The only thing I would have liked was more of a sense of cohesion. There was no organization, with the posts neither organized by original date or by subject matter. It comes across as completely random. On the other hand, that may be why I kept reading long after I told myself it was time to put the book down to do chores, since you never know what the next post would be about. It could be about politics, advice for writers, or a post on why Freddy, from the Scooby Doo cartoon, is a cult leader.

And the intro from Will "the most hated character on Star Trek The Next Generation" Wheaton is also pretty amusing on its own.

BL834 says

A collection of blogerity (shut up, I can make up words in my own reviews) well worth reading.

"Best Cheese of the Millenium" (12/27/99) is my absolute favorite piece in this book. It made me laugh so hard I woke my daughter who was sleeping upstairs! Of course several other essays were funny, too. But don't think this is an entirely humorous book.

Some bits were deeply touching. Personal stories and even reflections on certain news items stirred empathy and were illuminating.

Some were, well, political ranting. (Not that I disagree with many of Mr. Scalzi's political viewpoints - I just can't be arsed to consider the political sphere for too long or my head explodes like some sort of overstuffed hot pocket that's been microwaved about five minutes past the recommended heating time.)

All were well-written and full of scintillating bon mots. Even worse: I learned things. I'm terribly afraid I must now spend several days reading through the archives of <http://whatever.scalzi.com/>

Don't wait up.

Nicholas Whyte says

"<http://nwhyte.livejournal.com/1224752.html>[return][return]This is a compilation of Scalzi's writing from his blog, essentially a set of rants and thought pieces on various subjects. I only became aware of his blog when I featured on it myself, but his writing is entertaining (more than his fiction, for my taste). Some of his pieces are very memorable - my favourites were his funny pieces on Scooby Doo and cheese (sadly neither is archived online), and his more thoughtful pieces on poverty and Richard Dawkins. (Links provided so that you can decide if you want to read any more, given that I thought these were the best.)"

Adam says

I got a little annoyed at the idea of buying an anthology of a hundred or so blog posts, but it says that's what this is right on the back cover, so that goof's on me, even if nobody bothered to fix an embarrassing number of typos in the conversion to print. Scalzi is a strong writer and his feel for metaphor is usually solid. My criticisms of this book fall along two main lines:

1) I'd have liked to have seen greater diversity in the posts that were included - seems like many of the posts here fall into the following four categories:

-*Gee, Conservative Christians Are Intolerant Hypocrites*

-*I Have Some Advice For You About Your Writing Career!*

-*Ludicrous Scenarios I Imagine For Fictional Characters We All Know and Love*

-*Something Childishly Simpleminded About World Politics*

2) ^^ This last is the one that I think is a real weakness. Yes, partly it's just that I disagree with Scalzi's

politics in some cases, but his political reasoning is naive enough to make one cringe. His case for the Iraq War poses as something fully baked, but pretty much amounts to the crap mainstream argument of "Saddam was a bad guy and hey, we're spending all this money on a big military anyway, so why shouldn't we?" Very weird that a guy with a University of Chicago philosophy degree seems to have devoted no energy to serious engagement with the moral issues surrounding preventive war.

Scott Rhee says

Back in 1998, sci-fi author John Scalzi started up a blog, long before anyone knew what the hell a blog was. Aptly named Whatever, Scalzi's blog was a forum for him to write about anything, from politics to movies to feminine hygiene products to personal finances to, well, whatever... Still going strong (check his latest on www.whatever.scalzi.com), Scalzi's witty little essays have garnered praise and ire from a steadily-growing fanbase, and some of his most memorable entries have been published in "Your Hate Mail Will Be Graded". Scalzi's writing reminds me a little of early Harlan Ellison (one of my favorite writers of all time), minus some of the bitterness and angst. (Scalzi is, unlike Ellison, NOT a short Jewish kid from Cleveland, thank God...) He definitely doesn't hide his political leanings (left-leaning libertarian...) nor does he pull his punches when he rips new assholes on people he can't stand (fundamentalist Christians, homophobes, the Bush Administration, George Lucas, etc.). The book was a 2009 Hugo Award winner, by the way.

Steven says

A great compilation of Scalzi's blog posts, many of which are still well worth a reread even for regular visitors to his site. I enjoyed the scatter-shot organization and mental massage of jumping from topic to topic and not in chronological order; at first, I wanted topics lumped together so as to follow threads of discussion and argument. The book works much better as is, almost like a cocktail party discussion that flows from one topic to the next and back again.

Whether your a writer, a reader, a politics junkie, or just someone who appreciates a well-done essay (short or long), this book should definitely be on your to-read pile.

Sarah says

I'm a recent reader of Whatever, Scalzi's blog, and I've enjoyed reading his posts over there, so I picked up this book. I'd hoped there would be some more commentary in line with the title--a point-by-point dissection of hate mail addressed to him--but it's actually a collection of previously published blog entries, most of which I hadn't read before.

My reaction is mixed. I enjoy his writing style and find his prose fairly accessible, if a bit wordy. His tone is sometimes self-congratulatory, which annoyed me. He's a very successful writer, and deserves a bit of ego, but given that I actually agree with his political positions and most of his writing positions, and *I* found him a bit over-the-top at times, I can't imagine the anger his tone incites in people who disagree with him.

He's witty and has a tendency toward the absurd that I can appreciate because I find it lacking in my own writing, but occasionally it's just too much (a post devoted entirely to the trials and tribulations of cereal box characters? Really?) On the other hand, some of his posts (his post commemorating 9/11, on the death of

Christopher Robin, on poverty, on the Surrendered Wife movement) struck me hard. He's capable of an emotional depth and resonance I hope to find in my own writing someday... and I found myself disappointed that the entire book didn't get that kind of intense response from me.

I'll remember this book, and I'll probably reread some of the posts in it, but not the entire thing.

Jonathan says

I had a little trouble with the format of this book at first, but then I grew to really appreciate it. Most of the essays/blogs are like 3 pages long, and, during this really busy period of my life, it was great to pick up the book I'm reading after 2 days and not feel completely out of the loop.

I found a lot of wisdom in this book. He gave credence to a lot of things that I think about that just sound too crabby to most people. I now have a line that I will use on the Haters: "My Jesus forgives your Hater Jesus!" Also: "I'm too busy to worry about aging and death!" and "If you are able bodied and have been educated, you are barred from whining about anything!" Ha!

Really enjoyed this book! An author with a lot of good things to say.

Jared Millet says

An entertaining, thoughtful, amusing and altogether random sampling of blog entries from John Scalzi's Whatever. While a lot of the blog posts (especially the Dubya entries) now lack the punch they had when they were relevant, many of the others are on topics timeless enough (author advice, notes on fatherhood, why "The Final Countdown" was the worst hair-metal song ever) that they're still worth the read. Of course, since the book isn't arranged topically, you never know what you're going to get. It would make as much sense to open it up at a random page each time you sit down with it as it would to read it cover-to-cover.

Kylie Behnke says

[3.5 stars]

Trin says

I really like John Scalzi as a blogger—his recent post on the big Amazon Fail had me in stitches—but I don't think his blog posts work as a book, or at least they don't as they're arranged here. The decision to put the posts in a random order means that there's never any sense of progression to his thoughts; too many posts on the same topics are included; and his frequent, mildly condescending posts on How to Be a Successful Writer and Lead a Successful Life made me feel shitty. Obviously, it's not Scalzi's job to make me feel good or even to *not* make me feel shitty, but "writing" advice like "marry someone more successful than you" is *really* not helpful to me right now, and not something I want to read in a book of humorous essays. Also, I get that writing is a job and should be treated as such, but man does Scalzi make it sound like such a *drag*.

I think Scalzi's scathing sense of humor—which I enjoy—may be better taken in small doses than absorbed all at once like this.
