

# Keyboard Warriors: The Rise of Online Harassment and the Real-Life Consequences



## Keyboard Warriors by Craig Payne

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

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The internet has become a breeding ground for online harassment, and the consequences can be devastating. Keyboard warriors, as they are called, are individuals who use the anonymity of the internet to spread hate, threats, and false information. Their targets can be anyone, from celebrities to politicians to everyday people. In some cases, online harassment has even led to real-life violence.

One of the most high-profile cases of online harassment involved Craig Payne, a former police officer from New Zealand. Payne was targeted by a group of online trolls who spread false rumors and threats against him. The harassment escalated to the point where Payne feared for his safety and the safety of his family. He eventually took his own life.

Payne's case is just one example of the devastating impact that online harassment can have. The anonymity of the internet can embolden individuals to say things that they would never say to someone's face. This can lead to a sense of impunity, which can further escalate the harassment.

Online harassment can take many forms, including:

- **Cyberbullying:** This is the use of electronic devices to bully or harass someone. It can include sending threatening or abusive messages, posting embarrassing photos or videos, or spreading rumors.
- **Doxing:** This is the act of publishing someone's personal information online without their consent. This can include their address, phone number, email address, or social media accounts.
- **Trolling:** This is the act of intentionally posting inflammatory or provocative messages online to provoke a reaction. Trolls often target individuals or groups that they disagree with.
- **Hate speech:** This is any speech that is intended to incite hatred or violence against a particular group of people. Hate speech can be based on race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or disability.

Online harassment can have a profound impact on its victims. It can lead to anxiety, depression, and even PTSD. In some cases, online harassment has even led to physical violence. If you are being harassed online, it is important to seek help. There are a number of resources available, including:

- **The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline:** 1-800-273-TALK (8255)
- **The National Domestic Violence Hotline:** 1-800-799-SAFE (7233)

- The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence: 1-800-799-SAFE (7233)
- The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender National Hotline: 1-888-843-4564
- The Anti-Defamation League: 1-800-843-5534

You can also report online harassment to your local law enforcement agency. If you are being harassed online, it is important to remember that you are not alone. There are people who can help you. Please reach out for help if you need it.

## **The Psychology of Keyboard Warriors**

What motivates someone to become a keyboard warrior? There are a number of factors that can contribute to online harassment, including:

- **Anonymity:** The anonymity of the internet can embolden individuals to say things that they would never say to someone's face. This can lead to a sense of impunity, which can further escalate the harassment.
- **Lack of empathy:** Keyboard warriors often lack empathy for their victims. They may not understand the impact that their words can have on others.
- **Need for attention:** Some keyboard warriors crave attention, and they will do anything to get it, even if it means hurting others.
- **Boredom:** Some keyboard warriors are simply bored and looking for something to do. They may target individuals or groups that they disagree with simply because they have nothing better to do.

It is important to remember that keyboard warriors are not always bad people. They may simply be unaware of the impact that their words can have on others. However, it is important to hold keyboard warriors accountable for their actions. If you see someone being harassed online, please speak up. You can make a difference.

## **How to Deal with Keyboard Warriors**

If you are being harassed online, there are a number of things you can do to protect yourself:

- **Ignore the harassment:** The best way to deal with keyboard warriors is to ignore them. Do not respond to their messages, and do not engage with them in any way.
- **Block the harasser:** Most social media platforms allow you to block users who are harassing you. This will prevent them from contacting you or seeing your posts.
- **Report the harassment:** If the harassment is severe, you can report it to the platform where it is occurring. Most platforms have policies against harassment, and they will take action against users who violate these policies.
- **Seek professional help:** If you are struggling to cope with the harassment, please seek professional help. A therapist can help you to develop coping mechanisms and strategies for dealing with the harassment.

It is important to remember that you are not alone. There are people who can help you to deal with online harassment. Please reach out for help if you need it.

Online harassment is a serious problem, and it can have a devastating impact on its victims. It is important to be aware of the signs of online harassment, and to know how to deal with it if it happens to you. If you are being harassed online, please reach out for help. There are people who can help you.



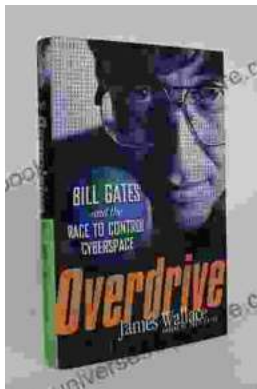
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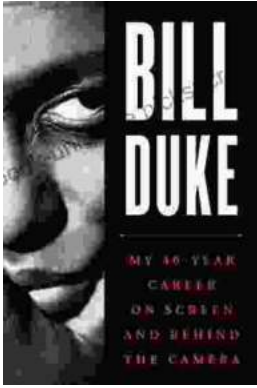
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