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Juri Nummelin

Bodice Ripper Apart. A Book of Spam Poems

WITH AN AFTERWORD BY JUSSI PARIKKA

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Bodice Ripper Apart

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Bodice Ripper Apart
A Book Of Spam Poems
With An Afterword by Jussi Parikka

Foreword

This is a book that is made entirely of found texts. All the texts have been taken out of the internet, either from spam e-mail, spam blog comments or discussion groups' websites. I'm hoping that with this archival gesture I'm able to reserve at least some of that culture that we were perceiving in the early years of the 21st century. Some say we have entered a post-human era, and it's fitting we have a burgeoning brand of literature – the literature of the robot!

I want to thank Jussi Parikka, who wrote a very enlightening afterword to this book and also sent me some samples of his private spam collection. I also want to thank Karri Kokko and Leevi Lehto for encouraging me with this project. I also want to say thanks to some good people on the Fictionmags e-mail list. I'm sure there are others, who have shared my enthusiasm for the spam.

Some of the following texts have previously appeared in my self-published booklets, such as *Soundtrack, the "soundtrack"* (2007).

Turku, Finland
31st of July, 2009

Juri Nummelin

E-mail

This section is made out of spam messages received in e-mail only. It is divided in three subsections. The first one collects the spam e-mail that was prevalent in the mid-2000s. In order to bypass the virus and spam control, spammers assembled messages from random, usually quite obscure words (some not even found in any dictionary), which made for a unrelenting read.

The second subsection puts together those spam messages that were made taking arbitrary pieces of text from around the net and shuffling them into a post. This kind of spamming emerged slightly after the spam in the first section. Some of the texts here are from known pieces of literature (it would take a lifetime to annotate all the spam made in this mode, even in the limited scope of this collection), some are from illegal translations or very obscure texts, hidden in the remotest corners of the web. So, in every way this kind of spam represents the hidden.

In the third subsection we see words and worlds colliding and everything falling apart. This is truly dystopian literature.

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“Our network world is the world of spam and excess. This book by Juri Nummelin is also a glimpse to the circulation of desires and perversions of this network culture of capitalism. [...] we learn of another kind of a message: don’t be afraid to embrace your spam! They tell you the truth about the processes of interpellation that try to hail you as the proper capitalist subject! Love your spam as you love your emails from friends!”
Jussi Parikka