

In her mid-twenties, at the height of tech-industry idealism, Anna Wiener—restless and looking for meaning in her work, like any good millennial—left a job in book publishing for the promise of the new digital economy. She moved from New York to San Francisco, where she landed at a big-data startup in the heart of the Silicon Valley bubble: a world of surreal extravagance, dubious success, and fresh-faced entrepreneurs hell-bent on domination, glory, and, of course, *progress*.

Anna arrived during a massive cultural shift, as the tech industry rapidly transformed into a locus of wealth and power rivaling Wall Street. But amid the company ski vacations and in-office speakeasies, boyish camaraderie and ride-or-die corporate fealty, a new Silicon Valley began to emerge—one in far over its head, and enriching itself at the expense of the idyllic future it claimed to be building.

Part coming-of-age story, part portrait of an already bygone era, *Uncanny Valley* is a rare first-person glimpse into the high-flying, reckless startup culture at a time of unchecked ambition, unregulated surveillance, wild fortune, and accelerating political power. With wit, candor, and heart, Anna deftly charts the tech industry's shift from self-appointed world savior to democracy-endangering liability, alongside a personal narrative of aspiration, ambivalence, and disillusionment.

Unsparring and incisive, *Uncanny Valley* is a cautionary tale, and a revelatory interrogation of a world reckoning with consequences its unwitting designers are only beginning to understand.

**ANNA WIENER** is a contributing writer to *The New Yorker*, where she writes about Silicon Valley, startup culture, and technology. She lives in San Francisco. *Uncanny Valley* is her first book.

READ BY SUEHYLA EL-ATTAR



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UNCANNY VALLEY

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