The Breakup 2.0: disconnecting over new media, by Ilana Gershon
(book review)

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disorders (ASD). The authors explain not only how to create and use an activity schedule but how to determine whether a child has the skills to use a schedule and how to teach an individual to use one. An activity schedule can reduce frustration and anxiety and increase communication, support appropriate use of free time and inclusion in family chores and activities, and ease transitions and create a sense of self-confidence and independence in children and adults. New to this volume are instructions on how to use visual schedules electronically via iPod or BlackBerry. **VERDICT** This instructional manual will provide parents and teachers with all they need to know to prepare, teach, encourage, and support their child or student in using a visual activity schedule. This is essential for any family with an autistic child.—Lisa M. Jordan, Johnson City, LIb., KS


“I’ve been successful in the [porn] industry...for a reason,” writes Marcus: “I listened, learned, and made changes.” The same approach works in real life, and Marcus gets high marks for messages about female pleasure, mutual communication, respect, and intimacy in and out of the bedroom. Not neglecting male performance, he devotes a chapter to “Woodwork”: enhancing and maintaining arousal. His “What Men Want” and “What Women Want” lay a sensitive foundation, followed by more specifics about masturbation, intercourse, oral and anal sex, toys, bondage/S-M, and group activities. He sprinkles throughout plenty of advice about safety as well as stories from his 15 years in the porn industry, so porn celebrity watchers will keep reading. The downside: no resources or referrals list, only recommended porn videos. The explicit drawings are appealing and helpful if occasionally not well coordinated with text. **VERDICT** The book’s strongest plus: those who’d never touch a sex manual might pick this up on Marcus’s reputation—and get some good advice. Suggested for adventurous collections in sophisticated urban areas where porn is no big deal.—Martha Cornog, Philadelphia

**SOCIAL SCIENCES**


Breaking up is hard to do, and, as Gershon (communication & culture, Indiana Univ.) observes, it can be even harder when technology is brought into the mix. Gershon interviewed over 70 people (many of them college students) to examine how they used chatting, email, texting, and social networking websites in conjunction with their relationships and found that opinions and social rules governing the intersection of romance and technology are still highly variable. Why would some people rather break up through email, while others prefer instant messaging? What kind of problems arise when a couple has different ideas about how to digitally negotiate the end of their relationship? How do the social and public aspects of sites such as Facebook affect one’s actions during a relationship and after its dissolution? Mindful of the complicated nature of the topic, Gershon never attempts to define which behaviors are right or wrong but instead concentrates on exploring the ways people think about these tools and what their beliefs show about society’s responses to technology. **VERDICT** Though written with an academic focus, this is an intriguing read for anyone interested in how social conventions for new media develop and the ways that technology is changing romantic relationships.—Kathleen McCallister, Univ. of South Carolina Lib., Columbia


During extended visits over a two-year period beginning in 2006, Valby (senior writer, Entertainment Weekly) lived among the residents of the small town of Utopia, TX. She witnessed the effects of rapid changes brought about by the recent invasion of satellite TV, broadband, and Wi-Fi—forces defined by old-timers as destructive to the proud small-town culture. Young people, however, regarded the changes as liberating. Some were anxious to leave the restrictive sameness of Utopia but felt tethered by that same familiarity as well as the comfort of their traditional roots. Valby looks beyond mythology and inversions, including fingertip-size icons to social networking. Social networking enables people to share, trust, and empathize, attributes that individuals are often cautious or fearful of revealing online. Zandt addresses these concerns and skillfully anticipates and answers questions that readers might have. The five chapters have engaging names, such as “We Are What We Share” and “Sharing Is Daring,” and the conclusion is titled “What the Future Holds.” There is also a four-part resources section, including “Tips for Individuals,” “Tactics for Organizations,” and a section that addresses how Zandt used the web to fund this book. She supplies illustrations, including fingertip-size icons to engage readers. **VERDICT** Since Zandt examines the important topic of social justice online and because the content can possibly yield huge personal and social benefits for many readers, this book is recommended for all interested in using web 2.0 for their social activism.—Caroline Geck, Newark Public Schs., NJ

**TRAVEL & GEOGRAPHY**


Journalist Morrison has covered conflicts ranging from the political to the environmental in areas from Afghanistan to India to Uganda and beyond. While covering the conflict in Darfur, Sudan, he planned a trip not known to have been made in decades—travel up the White Nile from Lake Victoria to the Mediterranean Sea. Morrison’s friend Schoen Bryan accompanies him on part of the trip, his first travel outside of the States. The journey, planned to take three months, required six and was more land travel than river voyage. From Uganda, through Sudan and Egypt, the Nile has become undrinkable, overfished, dammed by hydroelectric plants, choked with water hyacinth, and traveled by warships. Morrison’s narrative combines reporting and travelog in a way that brings readers to this most unlikely destination, a place of complexity, tension, struggle, and pain, where shades of tradition and community are still visible. **VERDICT** Morrison’s account transcends the travel genre to provide authentic and timely information on a complicated part of the world. Highly recommended.—Melissa Stearns, Franklin Pierce Univ. Lib.