



Red Bang

Brandt Monroe

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Adam Murphy is a Hollywood screenwriter who has clearly lost his way. His wife, Jess, is a Los Angeles publicist who just lost her job. With the bills mounting and nowhere to turn in the City of Angels, Adam takes a chance on a complete life reboot – taking a job in Seattle at a billion-dollar, Fortune 500 technology behemoth and bringing his family along for the ride.

While working at The Company is a gloriously heady, benefit-laden playground for today's smartest minds, Adam quickly realizes he has descended into a foreign land where the language, customs and politics will either make him stronger or cause a meltdown of epic proportions. Faced with a 'win or fail' attitude, Adam must find a way to deliver an innovative new product, defeat his political nemesis, align with a mysterious Company founder, and save his wife from a weather-induced depression all before The Company finds out he has no idea what he's doing.

Inspired by the unbelievable things that go on behind closed doors of America's largest companies, and bolstered by a warm-hearted, humorous look at one family's fight against a Stepford-like culture, RED BANG will take you on a hilarious journey into the ridiculous hive mind of today's tech giants.

Red Bang Details

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Author : Brandt Monroe

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From Reader Review *Red Bang* for online ebook

Heather says

*I received a free copy of this book from the author for an honest review.

Red Bang by Brandt Monroe is about a man named Adam Murphy. He's a Hollywood screenwriter who doesn't quite know what to do for his career. Jess, his wife, used to be a Los Angeles publicist until she lost her job. In need of money, Adam decides he will take a chance on a new opportunity offered by a billion-dollar company called The Company. Adam ends up getting the job, but it's not exactly what he was led to believe.

The Company portrays itself as a sort of work playground filled with benefits; however, Adam finds out that there's little room to breathe from all the meetings he must attend to all the urgent e-mails he gets every few minutes. Plus, The Company wants Adam to be innovative while keeping up with his every day tasks. He must either learn the customs of The Company on his own or fail miserably. To succeed he must deal with competing employees and create an alliance with a distant Company founder before he is fired. While he is facing this difficulty at work, Adam has to also help Jess through her growing depression from the gloomy weather and from feeling unaccomplished.

This novel is filled with references. The references consist of modern technology, pop culture, entertainment, and so on. Some pass unnoticed, while others are hilarious and memorable. It's easy to relate to the main character through the use of these references because he seems more realistic and it makes him a unique character. Even if the reader doesn't understand every reference, it doesn't take away from the book. There is enough explained about each reference to make the reader understand why it was used and even provide some new information. While the story is well-written, I do wish there were shorter chapters and not only months with short breaks every now and then. Sometimes I found myself wanting a break but the end of the chapter was still many pages away.

The characters are the highlight of this story. My favorites being the protagonist and his family. Adam is witty and sarcastic, and I found myself enjoying his personality. I love his comebacks and responses to other people, especially with Jess. Adam and Jess go well together. They seem like a fun family, and their humor bounces off of each other perfectly. Plus, their daughter Kate is adorable. I even enjoyed Adam's competition with his nemesis, Romy. It was interesting to see the contrast between Jess and Romy. Both are motivated women who want to do something great, but Romy has the tendency to squash people beneath her while Jess works with others to solve problems. It was nice to see determined women taking charge while showing a difference in how they obtain power. They didn't have the same methods, and I liked that a woman could be in charge without stepping on others (Jess). All of the characters are believable because they are not perfect. They slip up and make mistakes. It makes them feel human, and it's even more realistic since The Company is based on actual American companies.

While The Company is a fascinating place, I would not want to work there. However, it provided a great location for the story. I loved that American companies were poked fun at for their customs with new employees and for the "fired" ones as well. The novel brought forth the main problems in them and created this insane work environment that I'm sure a lot of people would fail in. A lot of the products being developed by The Company are similar to things we have in the real world but that doesn't take away from creative aspect of the story in any way.

Red Bang is an enjoyable read. It has relatable characters and takes place in a realistic world. I enjoyed watching Adam develop through the story. While the story is based off of real life companies and products, it refrains from being predictable and has a satisfying ending. If you're looking for an interesting story with lots of real-world references, you should definitely check out *Red Bang*. You won't be disappointed!

For more reviews, check out my blog at [Cook's Reviews](#)

Lawrence Lam says

An over the top satire about life at Microsoft. One outsider finally finds himself inside the walls of "The Company" (Microsoft) and encounters the whirlwind of Type-A-ness and political backstabbing at the level that you've heard about on Mini-Microsoft. Powerful allies and enemies make his journey through the machinations at the company mirror a spiritual battle. Lots of parallels with my own career but many elements that I'm lucky to have avoided during my time at MS. Wasn't quite the page turner I thought it would be but a fun read nonetheless.

Zoe says

Great Read!

It was hard to put down. Well written and I had some laugh out loud moments! The relationships are well crafted and the book leaves you satisfied in the end.

Carol says

I struggled with this book at times but just had finish it to see how it turned out. I did like the main characters but found the plot confusing and a bit ott. But I finished it so maybe liked it ,ore then I thought I would part way through ?

Wayne Gladstone says

Brandt Monroe delivers a Pacific Northwest hi-tech panic attack but graciously allows us to experience it by proxy. His smart, funny protagonist reveals all the absurdity of the new Corporate America and suffers its indignities while we thankfully read along in safety. Funny and timely

Tina says

This overly-long tale of the tech world offers some laughs, but ultimately fell flat for me. Adam comes from the entertainment field, a former screenwriter thrust into the high-tech world when he seeks a new job. His family moves from sunny California to overcast Seattle, and he takes on a whole new role. There's corporate

shenanigans and intrigue, weird co-workers and nutty bosses to deal with, along with a precocious daughter and a wife riding the ragged edge of disaster. With a secret project to bring to fruition, Adam is just hanging on.

The author has a couple of idiosyncrasies that threw me out of the story often. He has a way of turning an uncomfortable phrase too often ("...to which she had seemed intrigued by" rather than "by which she was intrigued," for example). He also really likes the word "reviled," which he used at least nine times, in each case mistaking it for the word "reveled," a fairly distinct error, given the very different meanings. He also commented on someone's unusual habits, saying they handed out one thousand dollar bills, currency that was last printed about 1945. Too many of these instances added up for me, causing me to set the book aside in favor of something else, and struggling to get all the way through. It's an okay read, but not recommended.

Denise says

I loved the sarcasm, and the continual referencing to a made up reality. It really shows how much the corporate world takes over our lives and values. What would happen to our world if like Adam, we all believed that our values were more important then what the corporations wants us to believe?

John Bravenec says

meh. Funny if you've worked at MS, not so much otherwise.

Heather says

When I read the blurb for "Red Bang" I knew that it would be something I would enjoy... the setting is in modern times in the tech industry and the mindset that goes with it, and the main character is old enough to make references to pop culture that I would get.

Overall I did enjoy the book. The main character keep things interesting, but I really liked what goes on with his wife. She could have had her own book. The supporting characters are good.

There were some places it lagged and sometimes "too witty" for its own good. But these were few and far between.

If you like books about the tech industry, Seattle, crazy bosses and a recluse, then you will definitely enjoy this book.

*** Please note that I received this book through Goodreads.com Member Giveaway. That in no way influenced this review. ***

Jenee Rager says

I won this book on goodreads, not knowing quite what to expect. Within a few pages I was laughing out loud and the laughs kept coming.

Brandt Monroe takes you through both the Hollywood underground and the Corporate tech world with a tongue in cheek sense of humor. This book may not appeal to people who don't have a lot of pop-culture knowledge, but as someone who does I found it hysterical. For example, when Jess "overdoses" on caffeine patches and references the infamous Jessie Spano (Saved by the Bell) breakdown I was laughing so hard I snorted. :) My one criticism of this book would be that there are times when it drags on a bit with backstory. I think the author could have easily cut fifty to a hundred pages from the book and still kept the important story and just streamlined the enjoyment.

Brad Feld says

I wanted to love this book. From the review it felt like a current day version of Microserfs: A Novel or JPod, two tech culture masterpieces by Douglas Coupland. While some of that came through, "The Company" (a thinly designed version of Microsoft) was too over the top ridiculous and many of the satirical moments fell flat for me. It was ok, but not great.

Sarah says

received this book for free through goodreads first reads.

this book was hard to read and at the same time i just couldn't get enough of it. like my brain was "please stop, too heavy! not your genre!" and my perseverance was "cmon it's fun, who knows what will happen next? you might not want to miss it". so yeah it took me quite some time to finish this book but it was worth it. highly recommend it
