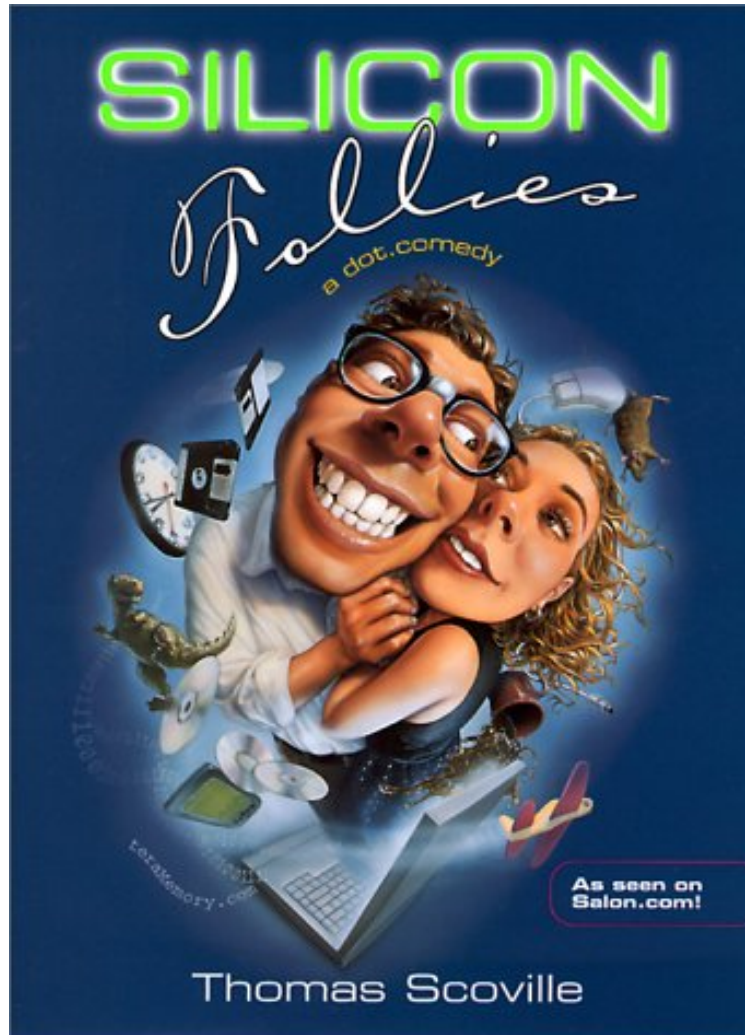


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## Silicon Follies

*Thomas Scoville*

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**Thomas Scoville : Silicon Follies** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Silicon Follies:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great early attempt to describe Silicon Valley startup life.By Better YetiFans of HBO's Silicon Valley with Thomas Middleditch and Zach Woods might want to read this book. It's an early (dot com era) rendering of life in high-tech startups (one that even got its own television pilot made by Ron Howard's Imagine TV). One of the scenes (Bachman's tech talk blown out through mouthfuls of ramen noodles) is suspiciously like a scene from Silicon Follies. And while the HBO series is clearly the most funny, successful SV story to date, Follies is an interesting study in a precursor effort that a number of people seemed to love. If the HBO series is hugely successful, it would not surprise me to see a major studio attempt to reanimate the Silicon Follies TV

series effort. Are you listening, FX? 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. If you are involved in high tech in Silicon Valley, you should read this. By Stanley If you work in high tech, entrepreneurial type things or if you live in Silicon Valley or if you once lived there, you can definitely enjoy this. It is very entertaining. Although this covers the dot.com bubble, it is also relevant to this current fourth wave of Silicon Valley high tech growth. If you take the 1st wave as the growth of the early semiconductor companies around and spun out of Shockley, then the 2nd as the rise of Apple/Xerox/PARC/SAIL, and the 3rd as the internet and dot.com period. We are probably in a 4th wave of Social Networking. Anyway, this story is still relevant and highly enjoyable. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The Best Kind of Satire By R. E. Statham I have always enjoyed most forms of satire, especially when it contained solid "you had to have been there" information. After reading the first three pages of this book, I had to look up the author, Thomas Scoville, to see his background. Yep, he's been there alright. An honest to goodness software engineer with experience in startups and the Valley. Funny, funny book, with biting indictments of venture capital, technology senior management, coders, midnight code hackers, performance artists, startups, buyouts, marketing types, HR, sales pukes... yep, he got most of 'em just about spot on. "Silicon Follies" is not an indictment- it's entertainment and satire. And as satire, it succeeds very, very well. It's not meant to tell you how it was- it was meant to poke fun at how it was, and to show the rest of the world how silly this process of trying to create something out of nothing but ideas really can be. Some very funny "laugh out loud" moments in this book that anyone with a bit of a technical bent will find hysterically funny. Scoville's dry wit comes thru on every page. Couldn't put this one down. Hope our illustrious author writes another one soon!

Welcome to Silicon Valley -- where fortunes are fast, dating's dysfunctional, and computer geeks rule. Meet Paul Armstrong, a late-twenties computer consultant who sits in his cubicle at TeraMemory wondering where it all went horribly wrong. Well, I wasn't always a nerd. I started out as a liberal-arts type in college -- though I aggressively concealed this on my resume. Hiring managers don't like it. Non-technical outside interests. Bad sign. Watch him order a latte from the office coffee cart and poke at his Chinese lunch special while his longtime pal Steve Hall, hacker extraordinaire, accuses him of selling out to The Man. When the money dries up, this place will be just like anywhere else. It was never the place, anyway -- that's what The Man will never understand. Meet The Man himself: Barry Dominic, the ?amboyant, lecherous, millionaire founder of TeraMemory. He insists they're poised to revolutionize networking with a cutting-edge technology, appropriately called WHIP. Nobody fucks with Barry Dominic. That's where Liz Toulouse comes in. A Stanford English Lit grad and TeraMemory marketing associate, she accidentally cc's the entire company a snide e-mail about The Man's bad grammar on her very ?rst day.... If only I'd had any idea. I'd have stayed in school. I'd have changed majors. Gotten a master's. Anything. Welcome to Silicon Follies, a hilarious dot.comedy of ambition and disillusionment in a land of luck, loss, and sometimes even love.

From Publishers Weekly In his satire of Silicon Valley and its technological trappings, Scoville portrays a world as rich with youth and enthusiasm as it is with hypocrisy and loneliness. Originally published as a series of short works on Salon.com, this "dot.comedy" is the story of TeraMemory, a fictitious tech behemoth, and its attempt to revolutionize the Internet through the launch of its new product, appropriately named WHIP (or Wireless, High-density Internet Protocol). As the story unfolds, the digital age is viewed through the eyes of Barry, the arrogant TeraMemory CEO; Liz, Stanford English major turned marketing assistant; Steve, a single-minded antiestablishment hacker; and Steve's best friend, Paul, possibly the last humble engineer in the entirety of Silicon Valley. As WHIP's launch date approaches, with the requisite hype and stock price gyrations, Barry is nearly one-upped by Steve and his hacker community (collectively known as Free Bits). Meanwhile, Paul and Liz discover that e-mail communications and digital meetings are no substitute for love and human interaction. The novel's plot is one-dimensional and only real techies will appreciate all the code and jargon, but Scoville is a witty, savvy guide to the infotech world, la Douglas Coupland in *Microserfs*. (Jan.) Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. San Jose Mercury News An amusing look at high-tech culture from the inside.... This phenomenon of our times frames... a host of brilliant characters. -- About the Author Thomas Scoville's debut novel, *Silicon Follies* began as a serial on Salon.com. Scoville's articles have appeared in *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Village Voice*, the *San Jose Mercury News*, and *The Surfer's Journal*. He is also the creator of the Silicon Valley Tarot. He lives in Providence.