

“Impressive and entertaining.”—*Nature*

From Robocop to the Terminator, no image better captures our deepest fears about technology than the cyborg, the person who is both flesh and metal, brain and electronics. But cyborgs, philosopher and cognitive scientist Andy Clark writes, are not something to be feared—indeed, we already are cyborgs. Clark argues that what makes humans so different from other species is our capacity to fully incorporate tools and supporting cultural practices into our existence. Technology as simple as writing on a sketchpad, as familiar as Google or a cellular phone, and as potentially revolutionary as mind-extending neural implants—all exploit our brains’ astonishingly plastic nature. Our minds are primed to seek out and incorporate non-biological resources, so that we actually think and feel through our best technologies. Bio-technological unions, Clark argues, are evolving with a speed never seen before in history. As we enter an age of sensory augmentation, wireless devices, intelligent environments, thought-controlled prosthetics, and rapid-fire information search and retrieval, the line between the user and her tools grows thinner day by day.