The Plot To Get Bill

The book tells the story of Bill Gates, his "evil empire", and the people who tried to bring him down—all over again

Going by the first hundred odd pages, which describe Gates' machinations in trying to attain total domination over the world's software industry, we felt that the book should have been called Bill Gates' Plot To Get The World. Name notwithstanding, the book is an out and out page-turner. Though the story of Bill Gates' rise to fame and fortune has been told often enough, this book tells the other side of the story. It is also peppered with juicy little tidbits—interesting insights and anecdotes on Gates' competitors—which make the book much more interesting.

Ever since he earned enough wealth that would, as Fortune put it, "make a rob-

actually came closer to that dream, he became ever more determined to do whatever had to be done in order to succeed. In doing so, "the squeaky-voiced pencil-necked mophead from Redmond" as Gates is known in some Silicon Valley circles, naturally incurred the wrath of NOISE.

For a guy who, for relaxation, "buys two identical jigsaw puzzles and then races his wife to see who can complete it first", Gates never could have been expected to show any mercy to his competitors, but then he never asked for any either. The Plot To Get Bill Gates is about Bill Gates' fight for supremacy. It is about his fights with the likes of Novell's Noor-
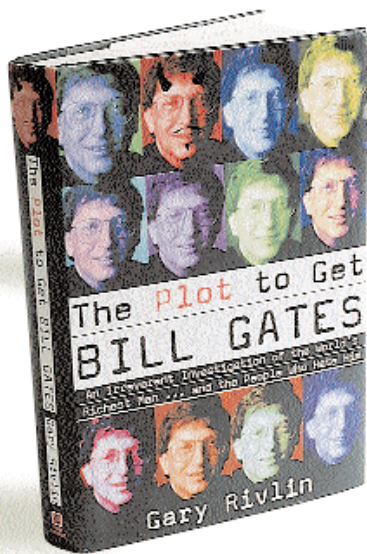
The other kids seemed content to teach the machine to play tic-tac-toe; it was Gates who said "Let's call the real world and try to sell something".

ber baron envious", Gates has been made out to be the Darth Vader to the Rebel Troops of NOISE—Netscape, Oracle, IBM, Sun and Everybody else. "Intimidatingly smart" according to friends, and "a little bit insufferable" according to himself, Gates was the kind of person who would read Business Week when his friends were sneaking copies of Playboy, in school. Paul Allen, cofounder of Microsoft, says that even at the age of fourteen, Gates dreamt of building a company which would grow to earn the top spot on the Fortune 500 list. Years later, as Gates

da and Sun's McNealy. But above all, it is about the fascinating Valley culture that breeds uni-dimensional workaholics who would do anything to win.

SAMEER KUMAR

R A T I N G 4 4 4 ☐ ☐

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Countdown 2000: The Y2K Challenge;
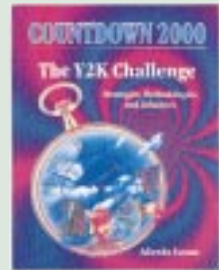**Tata McGraw-Hill;**
Price: Rs 295

Comprehensive articles contributed by at least 18 different IT authorities have made this book a neat compilation of the technical, managerial and legal aspects of the millennium problem—complete with checklists, dos and don'ts and troubleshooting tips. Some of the articles include: Year 2000 Compliance Checklist, Tips for Team Retention, Guidelines for Risk Managers, Date Conversion Strategies, and so on. Though some of the issues covered (like the origin of the Y2K problem, for example) are redundant and could have been edited. CEOs and project managers would find the book helpful.

R A T I N G 4 4 4 ☐ ☐

Intranet Resource Kit (with CD);
Tata McGraw-Hill;
Price: Rs 425

This book employs a simple and step-by-step approach to give you almost 500 pages of insight into intranets, the Internet and Web basics, using and installing an intranet, and finally, intranet content and security issues.

Notes, tips and FAQs, along with a "bonus" and "ready-to-use" Intranet Genie Lite CD-ROM from Frontier Technologies (developers of Internet and intranet software products), make the book a value buy.

R A T I N G 4 4 4 ☐ ☐