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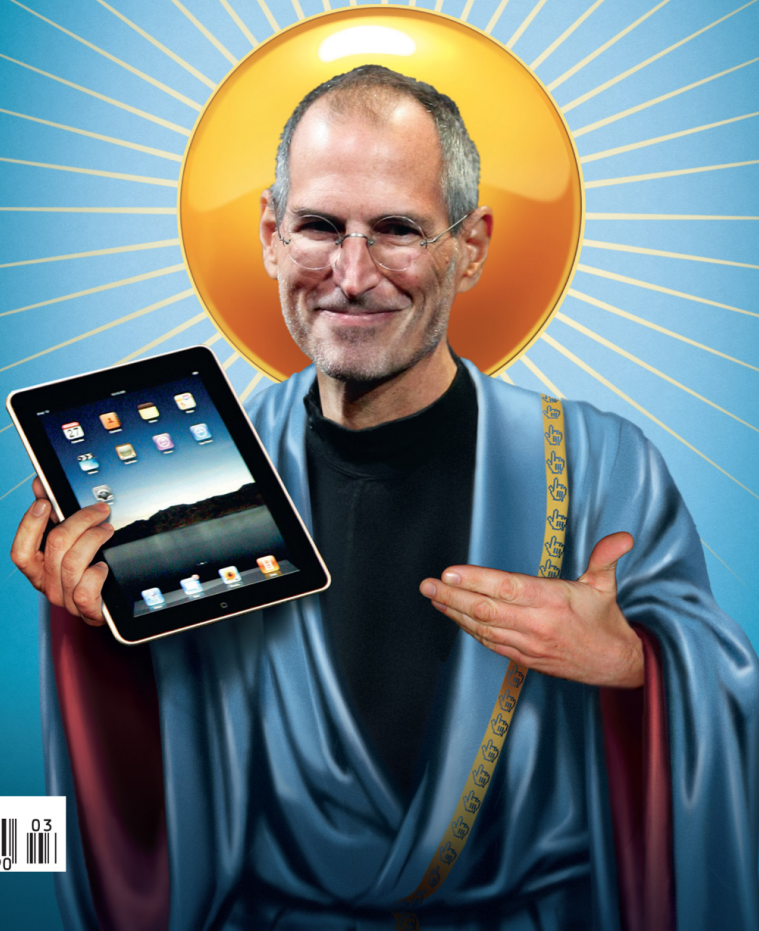
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# The Book of Jobs

Hope, hype and Apple's iPad



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## Patrick Bateman 2.0

An update for psychopaths in which we ask: what would the *American Psycho* protagonist look like today?

By Joseph Bullmore Illustrations by Jon Berkeley

**A**merican Psycho is a book that takes the question: "what if the eighties was, like, a real, living person?" and runs with it for 299 pages. (Not Easton Ellis' work! Like that description, but then I'm increasingly beginning to suspect that Bret Easton Ellis doesn't really like anything.) It huffs up all the decade's power restaurants, Rolodexes and videotapes, all its money, certainty, vanity and cocaine, and pumps them into a horrible, handsome, pin-striped little shell named Patrick Bateman, until he swells at the abs and sweats like a crack baby. And Patrick may or may not like to mutilate and murder a little between the sauna and the cevice, and he may or may not be real, and he may or may not be imagining everything, and the book may or may not be endorsing this lifestyle, and it may or may

not be condemning it, and it may or may not be saying something much cleverer in between the two. But listen—you're just here for the scene with the business cards and all that lovely Oliver Peoples eyewear, aren't you, so let's not get bogged down in the details. (There are also some bits with rats and prostitutes and chainsaws, but again, don't worry about it, honestly, it's fine.) It's now exactly 20 years since the film adaptation was released, and I know you haven't read the novel, so this is the anniversary that actually matters, isn't it, while the book will be 30 next year. With our woke glasses on (they're probably not Oliver Peoples — sorry), we can now look back on its era of Reaganomics and power suits with a knowing, post-post modern shake of the head. How far we've come. How much we've learned.

How little we now listen to Huey Lewis and the News.

Just think. A former celebrity as president! An unregulated financial market running rampant! An utter infatuation with brand names and the lives of celebrities! A cultural obsession with murderers! A feverish fixation on new restaurants! An unscalable mountain of urban cocaine! Who could live like that? These people! These monsters! Those vile bodies!

The more things change, the more they stay the same. Sometimes life imitates art, and sometimes art imitates life. But sometimes we just imitate our former selves—and that's when it gets really pleasing, especially for a gently exhausted lifestyle journalist with an illustration budget and yes, fine, alright, sure, an abundance of Gucci loafers. So. What would

Patrick Bateman look like today? What would he love and who would he kill? And why, more importantly, should you care?



### 01 CAREER

Bateman was born in Long Island, New York, in October 1962 to wealthy parents. His father is probably dead and his mother is in a sanatorium. He went to Phillips Exeter Academy in New Hampshire. →



## TRICK BATEMAN 2.0 / GENTLEMAN'S JOURNAL

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