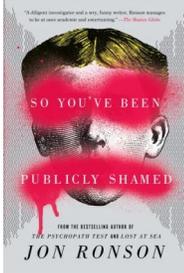# Books by the Stack

So You've Been Publicly Shamed by Jon Ronson

Jon Ronson has traveled the world meeting recipients of public shamings. His journey results in an eye-opening book about public shaming, and about shaming as a form of social control. It's a funny, unique, and very humane dispatch from the frontline in the escalating war on human nature and its flaws.

Why you'll like it: *Mob mentality, Internet age, psychology.*

About the Author: Jon Ronson is a writer and documentary film maker. His books include Them: Adventures with Extremists, Out of the Ordinary: True Tales of Everyday Craziness, What I Do: More True Tales, The Psychopath Test: A Journey Through the Madness Industry, and So You've Been Publicly Shamed. The Men Who Stare at Goats was made into a motion picture starring George Clooney in 2009. He will be delivering the opening address at the Brisbane Writers Festival in September 2015.

Questions for Discussion

1. One of the overriding questions posed by Ronson's book is whether or not anyone of us might become the butt of a public shaming scandal. Are any of us immune? Are you?

2. Can you come up with your own examples of someone who received a highly public shaming through social media? Did that individual deserve the attention and attendant disgrace?

3. How easy is it for someone to put his or her life back together after being publicly shamed?

4. To what degree does someone, who is object of social media frenzy, deserve the disapprobation he or she receives?

5. What role does—and ideally should—blame and shame play in maintaining society's moral standards? How do we hold people accountable for their transgressions—and what kind of transgressions deserve public shaming?

6. Which, if any, of Ronson's subjects do you have sympathy for? Was there anyone you felt who deserved the high-profile blame?

7. Is there anything positive, any societal good, that results from social media's blame-and shame potential?

(Questions by LitLovers.com)