

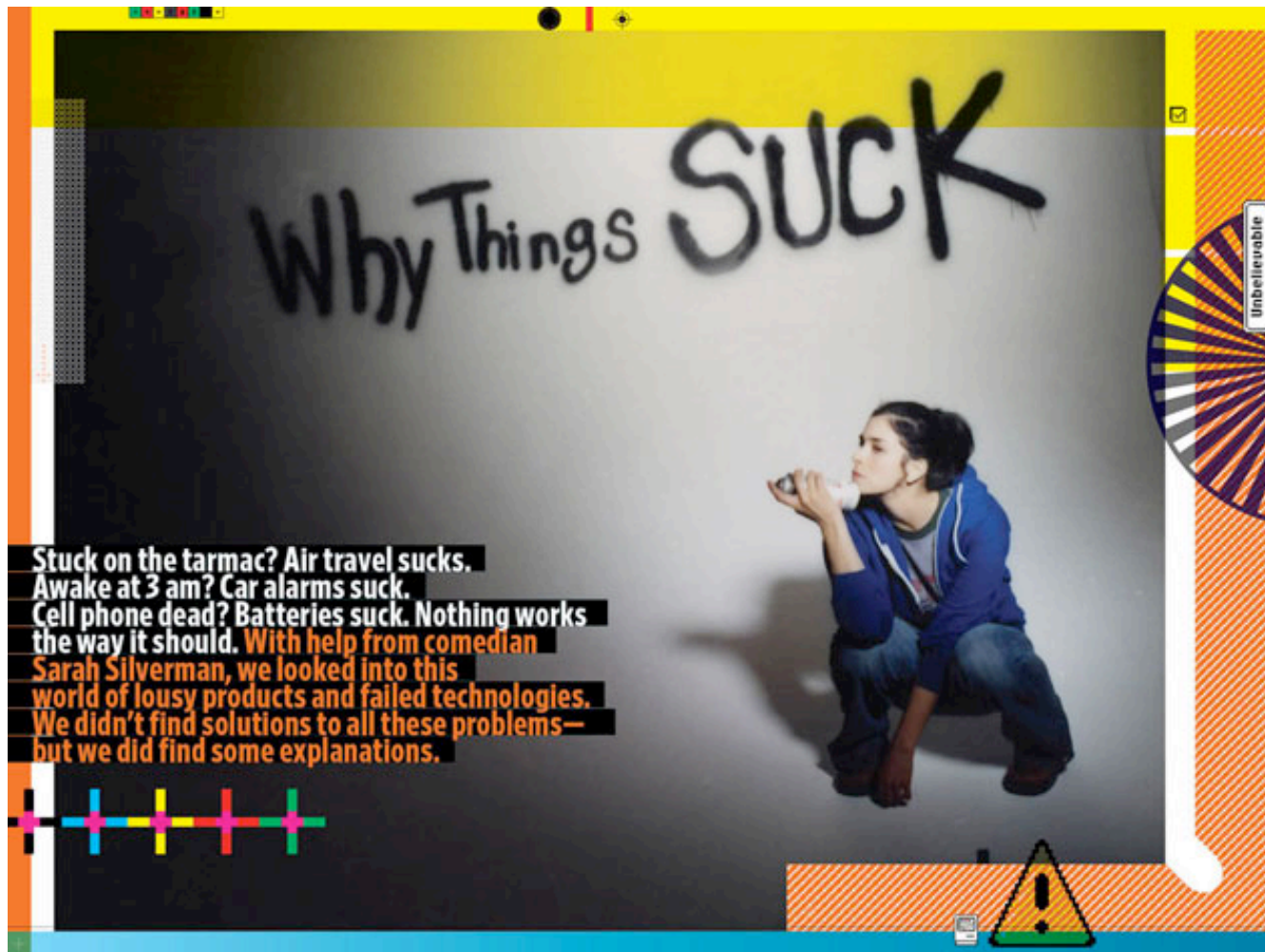
WIRED

<< [Back to Article](#)

WIRED MAGAZINE: ISSUE 16.02

The 33 Things That Make Us Crazy

By Wired magazine staff 01.18.08 | 6:00 PM



Stuck on the tarmac? Air travel sucks. Awake at 3 am? Car alarms suck. Cell phone dead? Batteries suck. Nothing works the way it should. With help from comedian Sarah Silverman, we looked into this world of lousy products and failed technologies. We didn't find solutions to all these problems—but we did find some explanations.

Photo: Art Streiber; Hair and makeup: Adrienne Herbert/Celestine Agency; wardrobe: Blair Levin/Timothy Priano; Prop stylist: Matt Luem

The Things That Suck

- [Air travel](#)
- [Batteries](#)
- [Booze](#)
- [Car alarms](#)
- [Credit cards](#)
- [Customer service](#)

Let's be clear: Sarah Silverman does not suck. Quite the contrary: From her early work on *The Larry Sanders Show* to her current TV series on Comedy Central, she is eye-meltingly funny. Her shtick demonstrates that she's a keen observer of all that sucks around us. On *The Sarah Silverman Program*, she plays a character (conveniently named "Sarah Silverman")

[DVD sound](#)
[Evite](#)
[Fuel economy](#)
[Hearing aids](#)
[Infertility treatments](#)
[Junk mail](#)
[Knees and backs](#)
[Medical records](#)
[Office copiers](#)
[Plastic packaging](#)
[Prescription drugs](#)
[Printer cartridges](#)
[Radio](#)
[Roads](#)
[Robots](#)
[Science](#)
[Spam filters](#)
[Subscription cards](#)
[Teleconferencing](#)
[Ticket purchasing](#)
[Tomatoes](#)
[Traffic](#)
[Vending machines](#)
[Web video](#)
[Whiteboards](#)
[Wireless speakers](#)
[+ Things that don't suck](#)

What Sucks Most of All

[Nominate your own annoyances.](#)

who's abrasive, insensitive, even a bit dumb. And in her stand-up act, she delights in flouting social taboos — scatology, racism, misogyny. (Her most quoted joke: "I was raped by a doctor. Which is so bittersweet for a Jewish girl.") Silverman's arch perspective on the world makes her the perfect pitch person for our explanations of why things don't work the way they should. Yet out of character, Silverman rejects cynicism. "A lot of comics have a kind of superstition," she told us. "They romanticize misery and think they need it to be funny. I don't thrive on that at all."

No misery? Does she not know how much things suck? She doesn't buy it. "I love technology. I'm all for it," Silverman says. "I watch my common-law stepdaughter iChatting with her boyfriend every night, and it's the fucking future happening now. It's amazing." Push her and she goes zen: "I would say the only things that truly suck are those things you cannot control," she says. "All other sucky shit can get unsucked just by changing your perspective a degree or two, or just doing something about it."

That kind of sunny optimism has no place in this issue. Luckily, she does have her moments of outrage. Like when idiots in her audience shoot low-quality video of her stand-up act and post it to YouTube. "I make a joke explaining why I'm asking them to stop, and then guess what," she says. "They keep shooting — usually with shit-eating grins on their faces, waiting for me to get mad or do something embarrassing. Those people suck. They suck balls."

Ah. There's the Sarah we love.