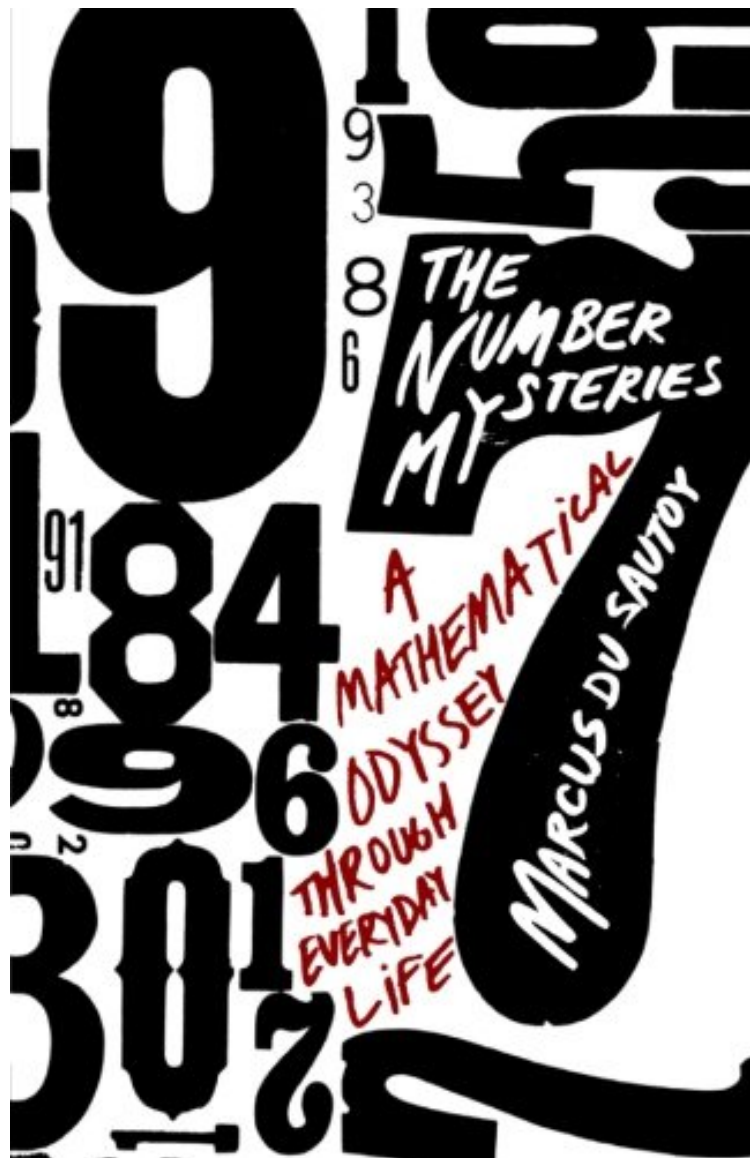


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The Number Mysteries: A Mathematical Odyssey through Everyday Life (MacSci)

Marcus du Sautoy

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#717954 in Books Marcus du Sautoy 2011-05-24 2011-05-24 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.50 x .62 x 5.50l, .53 #File Name: 0230113842272 pages The PDF Mysteries A Mathematical Odyssey Through Everyday Life | File size: 27.Mb

Marcus du Sautoy : The Number Mysteries: A Mathematical Odyssey through Everyday Life (MacSci) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Number Mysteries: A Mathematical Odyssey through Everyday Life (MacSci):

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. For those who once were charmed by the rigor and mystery of mathematics but who have lost touch with the discipline

By R. M. Peterson
Marcus du Sautoy is a professor of mathematics at the University of Oxford. He also has appeared on television programs presenting mathematical subjects for general lay audiences. In *THE NUMBER MYSTERIES* du Sautoy tries to do much the same thing - to show a general lay audience how mathematics underlies or explains much of everyday life: from the number of petals on a flower, to dragon noodles, to the construction of soccer balls, to three-dimensional teabags, to the Beijing Olympic Swimming Center, to roulette wheels, to Sudoku, to the Mayan calendar, to the ISBN code number for this book and all others published since about 1970. Along the way, he discusses such mathematical concepts as perfect numbers, Fibonacci numbers, fractals, and prime number codes.

Du Sautoy is enthusiastic and obviously knowledgeable. His writing style is relatively informal and, for the most part, comprehensible by the moderately intelligent and interested layperson. But I sense that the audience for *THE NUMBER MYSTERIES* is somewhat limited. The book surely is too simple or superficial for those who already have a strong background in mathematics. As for those with little or no interest in mathematics, I doubt that the book will kindle one. So it appears that its audience will be primarily those who once were charmed by the rigor and mystery of mathematics but who have lost touch with the discipline - and rather regret that development of life.

I count myself in that group, so I like reading a book like this every few years. Among its ilk, I found *THE NUMBER MYSTERIES* to be in the middle of the pack. One complaint I have is that the book does not include, for those who are intrigued by one or more of the mathematical concepts mentioned in it, references for further, more in-depth study. Another complaint, albeit having nothing whatsoever to do with its content, is that the cover of the paperback edition is downright ugly; it is perhaps the most unsightly book cover in my library.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. So interesting, it was a cover to cover read with no skimming

By Tomas Palmer
Readers at all levels will enjoy this book. The author explains each concepts using both descriptive text and multiple examples to insure each reader is given a chance to grasp the idea in a manner that works best for them.

The web based and cut./paste exercises are easy and fun, and allow one to physically engage with an idea.

Highly recommended even for those who work with numbers for a living.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Math can be applied to everything

By djreason
Good overview of some of the interesting aspects of math. While there are some heady equations in the book, they are sparse and not required for understanding the concepts outlined. I'd recommend this book for the non-mathematician that is looking for some thought-provoking numerical concepts.

Every time we download music, take a flight across the Atlantic or talk on our cell phones, we are relying on great mathematical inventions. In *The Number Mysteries*, one of our generation's foremost mathematicians Marcus du Sautoy offers a playful and accessible examination of numbers and how, despite efforts of the greatest minds, the most fundamental puzzles of nature remain unsolved. Du Sautoy tells about the quest to predict the future from the flight of asteroids to an impending storm, from bending a ball like Beckham to forecasting population growth. He brings to life the beauty behind five mathematical puzzles that have contributed to our understanding of the world around us and have helped develop the technology to cope with it. With loads of games to play and puzzles to solve, this is a math book for everyone.

Marcus du Sautoy's love for numbers glows on every page. Marcus du Sautoy is the Steve Irwin of the number kingdom. Richard Dawkins, author of *The God Delusion* A superb book about everything from numbers to shapes, to chaos, to codes, from a very able mathematician. Amir D. Aczel, author of *Fermat's Last Theorem*

About the Author
Marcus du Sautoy is a professor of mathematics at the University of Oxford and currently holds the same chair that Richard Dawkins once did. He is active in reaching out the public, speaking at TED Conferences, writing for *The Times* (London) and *The Guardian*, and has appeared in specials on both BBC and PBS. He is the author of *The Music of the Primes* and *Symmetry: A Journey into the Patterns of Nature*. He has been named one of the UK's leading scientists by *The Independent* on Sunday and in 2001 he won the Berwick Prize of the London Mathematical Society, which is awarded every two years to reward the best mathematical research by a mathematician under forty.