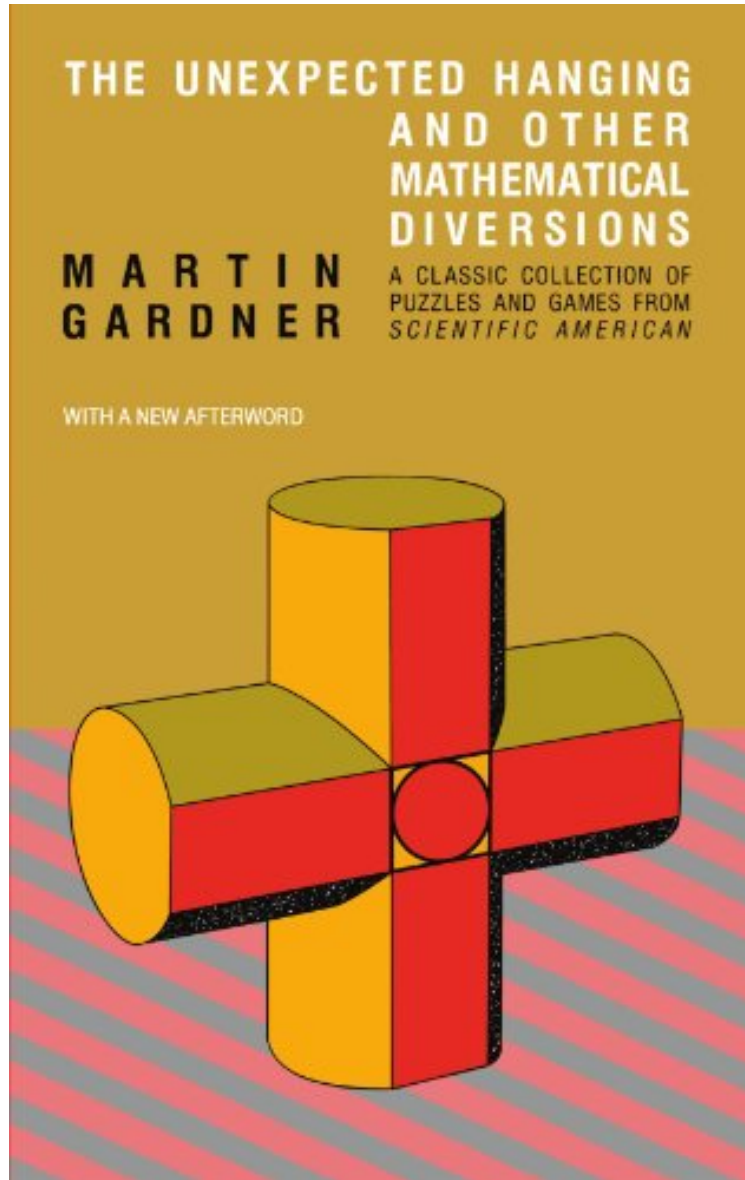


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The Unexpected Hanging and Other Mathematical Diversions

Martin Gardner

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Martin Gardner : The Unexpected Hanging and Other Mathematical Diversions before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Unexpected Hanging and Other Mathematical Diversions:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Curiosities of math/logic, and moreBy A CustomerI read this book in the early '70s, and it remains one of my favorites. You don't need to know much math to enjoy this collection of

curiosities that are mostly math- or logic-related. The text is a combination of puzzles, instructive prose, and stories. The book is easy-to-read and informative, with many references for additional reading. Mr. Gardner writes about: a drill bit for drilling square holes; different types of spiral curves; social behavior of the inhabitants of two-dimensional worlds; bar tricks; geometric dissections of polygons; peg solitaire games; the transcendental number "e"; cartoons that are read both right side up and upside down; game-playing machines; and more.

Seasoned with Gardner's interest in the history and philosophy of science, this delightful book is a treasure-trove of puzzles, anecdotes, games, and logical theory. These intriguing problems, collected from Gardner's Scientific American columns, involve knots, interlocking rings, rotations and reflections, logical paradox, two-dimensional universes, chess strategies, and gambling odds. "Gardner conjures problems that are both profound and silly; exquisite truths and outrageous absurdities; paradoxes, anagrams, palindromes and party tricks. . . . He knows, better than most, how many amazing true things there are in the world." Newsweek