



The Drunkard's Walk: How Randomness Rules Our Lives

By Leonard Mlodinow

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With the born storyteller's command of narrative and imaginative approach, Leonard Mlodinow vividly demonstrates how our lives are profoundly informed by chance and randomness and how everything from wine ratings and corporate success to school grades and political polls are less reliable than we believe.

By showing us the true nature of chance and revealing the psychological illusions that cause us to misjudge the world around us, Mlodinow gives us the tools we need to make more informed decisions. From the classroom to the courtroom and from financial markets to supermarkets, Mlodinow's intriguing and illuminating look at how randomness, chance, and probability affect our daily lives will intrigue, awe, and inspire.

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The Drunkard's Walk: How Randomness Rules Our Lives By Leonard Mlodinow Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Amazon Guest Review: Stephen Hawking

Published in 1988, Stephen Hawking's *A Brief History of Time* became perhaps one of the unlikeliest bestsellers in history: a not-so-dumbed-down exploration of physics and the universe that occupied the *London Sunday Times* bestseller list for 237 weeks. Later successes include 1995's *A Briefer History of Time*, *The Universe in a Nutshell*, and *God Created the Integers: The Mathematical Breakthroughs that Changed History*. Stephen Hawking is Lucasian Professor of Mathematics at the University of Cambridge.



In *The Drunkard's Walk* Leonard Mlodinow provides readers with a wonderfully readable guide to how the mathematical laws of randomness affect our lives. With insight he shows how the hallmarks of chance are apparent in the course of events all around us. The understanding of randomness has brought about profound changes in the way we view our surroundings, and our universe. I am pleased that Leonard has skillfully explained this important branch of mathematics. -
-Stephen Hawking

From Publishers Weekly

A drunkard's walk is a type of random statistical distribution with important applications in scientific studies ranging from biology to astronomy. Mlodinow, a visiting lecturer at Caltech and coauthor with Stephen Hawking of *A Briefer History of Time*, leads readers on a walk through the hills and valleys of randomness and how it directs our lives more than we realize. Mlodinow introduces important historical figures such as Bernoulli, Laplace and Pascal, emphasizing their ideas rather than their tumultuous private lives. Mlodinow defines such tricky concepts as regression to the mean and the law of large numbers, which should help readers as they navigate the daily deluge of election polls and new studies on how to live to 100. The author also carefully avoids veering off into the terra incognita of chaos theory aside from a brief mention of the famous butterfly effect, although he might have spent a little more time on the equally famous n-body problem that led to chaos theory. Books on randomness and statistics line library shelves, but Mlodinow will help readers sort out Mark Twain's damn lies from meaningful statistics and the choices we face every day. (May 13)

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Review

"Mlodinow writes in a breezy style, interspersing probabilistic mind-benders with portraits of theorists.... The result is a readable crash course in randomness."—*The New York Times Book Review* "A wonderfully readable guide to how the mathematical laws of randomness affect our lives."—Stephen Hawking, author of *A Brief History of Time* "[Mlodinow] thinks in equations but explains in anecdote, simile, and occasional bursts of neon. . . . The results are mind-bending."—*Fortune* "Even if you begin *The Drunkard's Walk* as a skeptic, by the time you reach the final pages, you will gain an understanding—if not acceptance—of the intuitively improbable ways that probability biases the outcomes of life's uncertainties."—*Barron's* "Delightfully entertaining."—*Scientific American* "A magnificent exploration of the role that chance plays in our lives. The probability is high that you will be entertained and enlightened by this intelligent charmer."—Daniel Gilbert, author of *Stumbling on Happiness* "Mlodinow is the perfect guy to reveal the ways unrelated elements can relate and connect."—*The Miami Herald* "A primer on the science

of probability.”—*The Washington Post Book World*“Challenges our intuitions about probability and explores how, by understanding randomness, we can better grasp our world.” —*Seed Magazine*“Mlodinow has an intimate perspective on randomness.”—*The Austin Chronicle*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Martin Adams:

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Bette Morgan:

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Tania Arney:

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