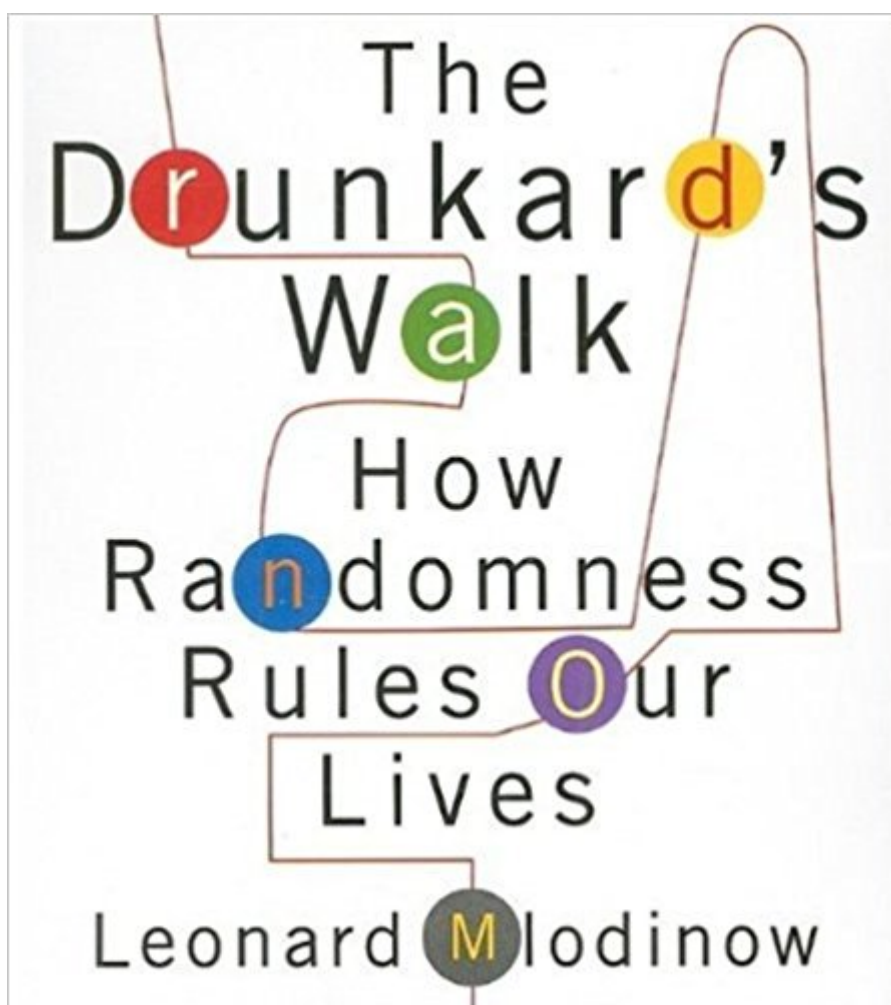The book was found

The Drunkard's Walk: How Randomness Rules Our Lives (Your Coach In A Box)

Synopsis

In this irreverent and illuminating audio book, acclaimed writer and scientist Leonard Mlodinow shows us how randomness, chance, and probability reveal a tremendous amount about our daily lives, and how we misunderstand the significance of everything from a casual conversation to a major financial setback. As a result, successes and failures in life are often attributed to clear and obvious causes, when in actuality they are more profoundly influenced by chance.The rise and fall of your favorite movie star or the most reviled CEO-in fact, all our destinies-reflects chance as much as planning and innate abilities. Even Roger Maris, who beat Babe Ruth's single season home run record, was in all likelihood not great, but just lucky.How could it have happened that a wine was given five out of five stars by one journal and called the worst wine of the decade by another? Wine ratings, school grades, political polls, and many other things in daily life 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 fresh insight into what is really meaningful and how we can make decisions based on a deeper truth. From the classroom to the courtroom, from financial markets to supermarkets, from the doctor's office to the Oval Office, Mlodinow's insights will intrigue, awe, and inspire. Offering listeners not only a tour of randomness, chance and probability but also a new way of looking at the world, this original, unexpected journey reminds us that much in our lives is about as predictable as the steps of a stumbling man afresh from a night at a bar.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

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 --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

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) Copyright Ã Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Do you think randomness only applies to games? Think twice, this book shows how randomness is everywhere and how are we tricked by it.It is a great read and it may open a new world for you if you read it with care.How we infer causes from outcomes and forget the how randomness could have played part is key.Love the idea on the asymetry between past and future and He explains it

very clearIn summary this is a very good book, with clear ideas. The only downside I found is that could feel a bit repetitive (some points are made several times).I definitely recommend this book as an starting read on randomness in our lives.

I have read Mlodinow's book "Subliminal" and this is his second book I just completed. He has an unique way of using stories to describe the principles of randomness - starting from simple probability and going further to conditional probability. He's right that while the maths involved may not be too complex, even academics often get it wrong when posed with a question linked to probability and randomness. We often attributed certain qualities as the definitive reason for success or failure (e.g. CEO credentials, star athletes, stock picking experts) while chance plays a major role in the outcome.The key takeaway to me is his paragraph in the last chapter - that by not giving up, we're able to increase the probability of success since it's under our control!What IÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ve learned, above all, is to keep marching forward because the best news is that since chance does play a role, one important factor in success is under our control: the number of at bats, the number of chances taken, the number of opportunities seized. For even a coin weighted toward failure will sometimes land on success. Or as the IBM pioneer Thomas Watson said, ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å"If you want to succeed, double your failure rate.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•

We humans are notorious pattern-seeking creatures. In experiments where two lights are flashed with differing frequencies, human test subjects attempt to predict the pattern. Rats, however, will simply pick the light that appears more often. In so doing, they will outperform the most intelligent species on the planet.In a similar vein, even experts cannot predict the success of books or films submitted for publishing. JK Rowling suffered numerous setbacks before her Harry Potter series was finally adopted, earning very handsome sums for her, Bloomsbury and Warner Brothers pictures. So too for Bruce Willis and Bill Gates. Anne Frank's diary was initially treated with similar derision. While hindsight is often (claimed) to be 20/20, foresight is notoriously unreliable, as Mlodinow illustrates in the latter half, after describing statistical significance and the bell curve. Most people do not expect clusters; they think patterns will inevitably reveal themselves in any random distribution. This is, obviously, not the case. Random events, by definition, cannot be predicted (at least not with our current technology).The counter-intuitive and hard-to-grasp nature of probability doesn't stop there. Studies have shown that ordinary citizens not trained in probability are quite prone to simple errors. For example, if they are asked whether it is more likely that Jane, a woman in her 20s, is a feminist, or both a feminist and an elementary school teacher, most will answer that

the latter is more likely. The latter, in fact, is a mathematical impossibility. It can only be equally likely, not more likely, than the former. Part of the difficulty lies in the sheer number of possibilities for any given situation, such as the risk of a single valve in a fission reactor leading to a meltdown. Since valves are open quite often, a single valve is likely to be considered par for the course. It is also why the phrase "military intelligence" is frequently treated with scorn. Although in hindsight the decision to leave Pearl Harbor be, due to its solid defensive emplacements, politics inevitably leads to finger-pointing and blame games.Trial by mathematics can lead to the innocent being convicted, especially since the wrong probabilities are often used (i.e. where the number of inter-racial couples in a city who own a certain car, vs. the number of total couples in that same city). Likewise, the Monte-Hall problem (using a gameshow where a contestant can win a goat or a car) had the world's top mathematicians making a simple blunder, unwilling to accept their error until seeing it demonstrated in a computer simulation (for more details, watch the film 21).Regression towards the mean is explained through genetics (shorter parents are more likely to have children who outgrow them, and vice versa. A recurring method for keeping things interesting is the continual use of brief biographies peppered throughout the book. Even the Greeks and Romans get a smattering of compliments and criticism (for instance, they had no concept of zero, and irrational numbers were thought to be too dangerous for the common populace). I especially enjoyed the tale of the mathematician who took Las Vegas casinos for a very costly ride, with some assistance from his students.This book is a great way to make complex mathematics fun, and you won't have to cramp your hands while you do it!

I did not take statistics in school and while I like to say things about "the odds" I really couldn't say I was on firm ground. This book provided an appreciation for such things in an entertaining and informative way. I have discussed elements of the book with friends, something I rarely do. I loved the diacussions of basic probability contrasted with irrational human thoughts. I even talked to a psychologist friend about why we believe things even when they are wrong. It's this element of the book I found the most fascinating and hard to forget. So maybe the topic sounds dry and you can't see yourself reading such a book on statistics. I can promise you that if you do you will never look at the way you think things tick quite the same again. I have even bought copies and given them to friends imploring them to read it. Who would have thought that would happen? I mean, what are the odds?

There are ten chapters. The first nine are a history of statistics, with some basic fundamentals

thrown in. Now, there are a few interesting tidbits in the first nine chapters. However, consider the subtitle of the book: "How Randomness Rules our Lives". I expected at least half of the book to be focused on Mlodinow's views on Randomness. Unfortunately, we have to wait until the final chapter to get this. And, yes, the final chapter is worth the entire price of the book. I just wish Mlodinow carved out more room to give us his thoughts. In other words, I wish he broke free of the history lesson earlier.

The Drunkard's Walk: How Randomness Rules Our Lives (Your Coach in a Box) The Drunkard's Walk: How Randomness Rules Our Lives Drunkard`s Walk How Randomness Rules Our Lives [HC,2008] Drunkards Walk: How Randomness Rules Our Lives Inheritance: How Our Genes Change Our Lives--and Our Lives Change Our Genes Who Rules the Earth?: How Social Rules Shape Our Planet and Our Lives The New Rules of Marketing and PR: How to Use News Releases, Blogs, Podcasting, Viral Marketing, and Online Media to Reach Buyers Directly (Your Coach in a Box) Make Money As A Life Coach: How to Become a Life Coach and Attract Your First Paying Client Private Government: How Employers Rule Our Lives (and Why We Don't Talk about It): How Employers Rule Our Lives (and Why We Don't Talk about It) (The University Center for Human Values Series) The Psychology of Selling: Increase Your Sales Faster and Easier Than You Ever Thought Possible (Your Coach in a Box) Becoming a Professional Life Coach: Lessons from the Institute of Life Coach Training 101 Tennis Tips From A World Class Coach VOLUME 1: A Common Sense Approach to Tennis (101 Tennis Tips From A World Class Tennis Coach) Regency Romance Box Set: Love, Lust, Money, Alpha Males, Pregnancy and more (Regency Romance 8 Box Box Set Book 1) Walker's Provence in a Box (In a Box Walking & Cycling Guides) (Walker's in a Box) EinsteinÃ¢â¬â„¢s Dice and SchrÃƒÂ¶dingerÃ¢â¬â„¢s Cat: How Two Great Minds Battled Quantum Randomness to Create a Unified Theory of Physics Fooled by Randomness: The Hidden Role of Chance in Life and in the Markets (Incerto) Incerto 4-Book Bundle: Fooled by Randomness The Black Swan The Bed of Procrustes Antifragile Fooled by Randomness: The Hidden Role of Chance in Life and in the Markets Unstable Singularities and Randomness: Their Importance in the Complexity of Physical, Biological and Social Sciences Woman Walk the Line: How the Women in Country Music Changed Our Lives

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