

RICHARD ROBINSON

WHY THE TOAST ALWAYS LANDS BUTTER SIDE DOWN

THE SCIENCE OF
MURPHY'S LAW



Why The Toast Always Lands Butter Side Down

Richard Robinson

Download now

Read Online ➔

Why The Toast Always Lands Butter Side Down

Richard Robinson

Why The Toast Always Lands Butter Side Down Richard Robinson

Fun, quirky popular science explaining the real reasons why everything always goes wrong - the various truths behind Murphy's Law. The law of laws, Murphy's Law, sits above all others like an uninvited guest at the feast. Whatever your field of endeavour Murphy is there to trip you up, delay and frustrate you. The more your endeavour, the greater the uptrip. Is there a rational explanation? That's what this book is here to provide. In fact, a closer look at Murphy's Law can give us some insights into us and the increasingly tangled lives we lead. Intended as light reading for the popular science market, this book presents the fullest ever analysis of Murphy's Law, peppered with examples such as why does your toast always lands butter-side down? (it has nothing to do with the butter) Why does your queue always go slowest? Why, when you lose something, do you keep looking in the same place over and over?... And why is it suddenly there the 20th time you look? Why do you think of the right thing to say just after you've put the phone down? Why is the tune you hate most the one you can't get out of your head? you're about to fall asleep? Why do you take the same wrong turning every single time? The first part of the book shows that, however odd the external phenomena at work, there is generally a scientific explanation. But why then do we continually fail to recognize or remember the explanation? The second part of the book goes on to show how much of Murphy's Law stems from the way our own mind works - its physical limitations, evolutionary biases, and social impressionability.

Why The Toast Always Lands Butter Side Down Details

Date : Published September 8th 2005 by Robinson Publishing

ISBN : 9781845291242

Author : Richard Robinson

Format : Paperback 248 pages

Genre : Science, Nonfiction, Psychology, Humor, Popular Science

 [Download Why The Toast Always Lands Butter Side Down ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Why The Toast Always Lands Butter Side Down ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Why The Toast Always Lands Butter Side Down Richard Robinson

From Reader Review Why The Toast Always Lands Butter Side Down for online ebook

Mtod12 says

This is very interesting for various trivia and the known science behind it.

Nenda says

#50 a book you started but never finished
2015 Reading Challenge

Brian Clegg says

Richard Robinson's delightful book is an exploration of the science behind Murphy's Law (the truism that can be roughly stated as "if something can go wrong, it will") – not just the simple probability tricks that fool our brains with such consistency – if we were any good at probabilities, there wouldn't be a casino business – but also the many ways our brains can fool us.

Robinson begins by giving a little background to the brain itself, then moves onto our interactions with the world, and the misunderstandings that arise from them. We learn, for example, the way our eyes (and other senses) can so easily be fooled. Robinson misses one trick when talking about the way the moon appears so much bigger in the "real world" than it does on a photograph – the most amazing fact here is just how small the apparent size of the moon really is, about the same as the hole in a piece of punched paper, held at arms length (if you don't believe it, try looking through such a hole at the moon) – but he still manages to point out just how easy our senses are to fool (and hence, sadly, why eye witnesses and anecdotes are pretty useless for either testimony in court, or scientific proof).

After taking on the senses, Robinson takes us through the faulty interference of memory, the way our natural tendency to look for patterns and connections can result in misunderstanding and "naive science", often suggesting causality that doesn't exist, emotional distortion (rather too much on this) and the impact of social context (it's all "their" fault), which section would have been better if it didn't perpetuate Richard Dawkins' meme concept, popular with the general public, but largely ignored in scientific circles. A final section considers the "pure science" of Murphy's law – that's to say the maths, physics and more that mean that things go wrong in the real world even without a misunderstanding from our brains – for example, busses really do tend to bunch up and travel in small packs. All this is helped along by short quotes that reflect Murphy's law in the particular arena under consideration.

The whole thing is neatly illustrated with a series of cartoons by Kate Charlesworth. These are fun, though both the illustrations and some of Robinson's wording make it difficult to decide whether this book is aimed at adults or older children – we think it's a great crossover title that can be appreciated by both.

Overall, entertaining and painlessly educational – what more can you ask of popular science – it's great as a present, or as a refreshing read to take away the pain of a hard day at work.

Lisa Galvin says

I really enjoyed this book. Psychology, science and "old school" wisdom blended together well with enough humor to make it a worthwhile read that anyone could grasp. After all, everyone is subjected to those cruel Laws of Murphy. It while the structure flowed really well, it was also easy to pick up and put down at a moment's notice, making it work really well for those short breaks during work.

I highly reccomend it!

Auntie Pam says

Chissà cosa mi aspettavo... Il libro non è altro che una sintesi di come lavora il nostro cervello e di sommarie spiegazioni alle più banali leggi di Murphy. Mi è piaciuto? A tratti, direi.

Joseph says

One of Murphy's Laws that this book misses is "if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is"...such as the title of the book. Obviously, most of Murphy's Laws can be explained away just by thinking about it logically.....dur! The answer to most is attention, which is mentioned very, very briefly. The majority of the book is 'evolution, evolution, evolution'....blah blah blah.

Star Shining Forever says

Really interesting and fun book! Written by a scientist, it goes over the reality of perceived phenomena like Murphy's Law, which says that if anything can go wrong, it will. It separates the truths and the myths and provides insights as to what we think and why. There's even as short part at the end with the math, science, and technical explanations. Learned some things and had fun doing it!

Steven Eisenberg says

It's a lesson in the physics of common sense. A short read, if yo like this stuff. I do.

Arturo Javier says

Este libro es exactamente el tipo de libro que debería encantarme, pero la verdad es que me irrita muchísimo. No tengo ningún problema con el aspecto "técnico" del libro, por así decirlo. Creo que el autor está en lo correcto la mayor parte del tiempo. Lo que me molesta muchísimo es su actitud hacia los seres humanos, hacia nuestro cerebro del paleolítico, hacia nuestros atavismos de la evolución. ¡El autor no nos baja de

"científicos ingenuos"! Sí, sufrimos de disonancia cognitiva. Sí, nuestra psicología del sentido común es chapucera. ¿Y qué? En lo que Robinson no repara ni una sola vez es que, a pesar de todas nuestras fallas, a pesar de que una y otra vez somos el target de la ley de Murphy, de alguna forma hemos logrado que las cosas funcionen más o menos bien.

Cassandra Kay Silva says

Meh? I am not much of a pessimist and for me the world is always a shining beacon of opportunity and enjoyment. So this is an unnecessary psychological approach to in my opinion an unimportant subject. My bad for reading it.

Agnes Fontana says

Ce livre prétendument consacré à la Loi de Murphy, aurait du plus adéquatement s'appeler " comment la manière dont notre cerveau perçoit et traite les informations nous induit en erreur", ou, comme on aurait dit au XVIIème siècle, "le Démon de l'erreur". La référence insistante à la loi de Murphy "et c'est là que Murphy pointe son nez" est plutôt irritante et semble traduire le souhait de coller à la commande de l'éditeur. A part cela, ce livre est une compilation plaisante d'informations scientifiques sur la manière dont nous percevons le monde moderne avec un cerveau façonné au Paléolithique, avec une capacité d'assimilation de l'information restée trop étroite pour toutes les données dont nous sommes bombardés, et une persistance des catégories archaïques. Il expose le rôle et le fonctionnement des différentes parties du cerveau, notamment l'amygdale et sa mémoire affective, et décline ensuite comment plein d'erreur et d'impressions fausses découlent de tout cela. Il se termine avec quelques explications tirées de science dure sur quelques phénomènes qui, effectivement, sont observables (les bus qui arrivent par trois, le rideau de douche qui colle à la peau). Le mélange de données scientifiques et de remarques humoristiques est un peu déstabilisant au début, mais les lecteurs américains ont sans doute plus l'habitude. La palme revient à cette citation l'Allen Ginzberg "vous ne pouvez pas gagner. Vous ne pouvez pas terminer ex aequo. vous ne pouvez pas quitter la partie". Et la remarque de l'auteur selon laquelle trois systèmes de croyances, le capitalisme, le socialisme et le mysticisme, s'attaquent chacun à l'un de ces trois constats.

Calvin Cochran says

Fun read.

Manfred Moonlight Ackermann says

Un livre qui explique le pourquoi du comment on en arrive à cette fameuse 'loi' de l'emmerdement maximum.

On a quelques arguments qui permettent de mieux comprendre cela, et qui sont parfaitement sérieux (assez étonnant, on s'attend à de la déconne permanente, eh non pas forcément), et ensuite beaucoup d'exemples étayant cette loi.

Un livre vraiment intéressant, et très divertissant qui vaut son achat, ou tout du moins sa lecture !!!

Kyle O'Shields says

This book was interesting. Right away, it acknowledges that Murphy's Law (not really a scientific law, by the way. More of a series of humorous sayings pretending to be scientific law) really lies more in how selective the human attention span and memory is. My copy has the subtitle "The scientific reasons why everything goes wrong" instead of "The science of Murphy's Law." If you enjoy a book full of illustrative examples, this book is for you.

Wee Jiawei says

interesting
