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"Mathematics without Apologies is a work of relentless intelligence that depicts Harris ' s experience of mathematics, but it is not at all a mathematician ' s autobiography. It is a madly erudite and creative reflection on the mathematical life."

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MATHEMATICS WITHOUT APOLOGIES: Portrait of a Problematic Vocation by Michael Harris. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2015. xxii + 438 pages, with endnotes, bibliography, and index. Hardcover; \$29.95. ISBN: 9780691154237.

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Professor Michael Harris has written a book, mathematics without apologies with the subtitle “ portrait of a problematic vocation. ” I hope that there will be more such books by him. As well, others in the many professional fields that fill our universities and colleges should try

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Given that Mathematics Without Apologies appears to be a non -autobiographical autobiography with non -moralizing morals, Harris ’ reflections and morals albeit unintentionally, provide perhaps the best and most interesting parts of the book.

Mathematics Without Apologies: Portrait of a Problematic ...

Although the book attempts to explain what mathematicians do and why they do it (the title, of course, is a reference to G. H. Hardy ’ s A Mathematician ’ s Apology), and although there are mathematical discussions intended for non-professionals, this is most certainly not a typical “ mathematics for laymen ” text, explaining deep ideas in overly simplistic ways. In fact, there is nothing ...

Mathematics without Apologies: Portrait of a Problematic ...

Disarmingly candid, relentlessly intelligent, and richly entertaining, Mathematics without Apologies. takes readers on an unapologetic guided tour of the mathematical life, from the philosophy and sociology of mathematics to its reflections in film and popular music, with detours through the mathematical and mystical traditions of Russia, India, medieval Islam, the Bronx, and beyond.

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"Mathematics without Apologies is a work of relentless intelligence that depicts Harris's experience of mathematics, but it is not at all a mathematician's autobiography. It is a madly erudite and creative reflection on the mathematical life."—Colin McLarty, author of Elementary Categories, Elementary Toposes

Mathematics without Apologies | Princeton University Press

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What do pure mathematicians do, and why do they do it? Looking beyond the conventional answers—for the sake of truth, beauty, and practical applications—this book offers an eclectic panorama of the lives and values and hopes and fears of mathematicians in the twenty-first century, assembling material from a startlingly diverse assortment of scholarly, journalistic, and pop culture sources. Drawing on his personal experiences and obsessions as well as the thoughts and opinions of mathematicians from Archimedes and Omar Khayyám to such contemporary giants as Alexander Grothendieck and Robert Langlands, Michael Harris reveals the charisma and romance of mathematics as well as its darker side. In this portrait of mathematics as a community united around a set of common intellectual, ethical, and existential challenges, he touches on a wide variety of questions, such as: Are mathematicians to blame for the 2008 financial crisis? How can we talk about the ideas we were born too soon to understand? And how should you react if you are asked to explain number theory at a dinner party? Disarmingly candid, relentlessly intelligent, and richly entertaining, *Mathematics without Apologies* takes readers on an unapologetic guided tour of the mathematical life, from the philosophy and sociology of mathematics to its reflections in film and popular music, with detours through the mathematical and mystical traditions of Russia, India, medieval Islam, the Bronx, and beyond.

G. H. Hardy was one of this century's finest mathematical thinkers, renowned among his contemporaries as a 'real mathematician ... the purest of the pure'. He was also, as C. P. Snow recounts in his Foreword, 'unorthodox, eccentric, radical, ready to talk about anything'. This 'apology', written in 1940 as his mathematical powers were declining, offers a brilliant and engaging account of mathematics as very much more than a science; when it was first published, Graham Greene hailed it alongside Henry James's notebooks as 'the best account of what it was like to be a creative artist'. C. P. Snow's Foreword gives sympathetic and witty insights into Hardy's life, with its rich store of anecdotes concerning his collaboration with the brilliant Indian mathematician Ramanujan, his aphorisms and idiosyncrasies, and his passion for cricket. This is a unique account of the fascination of mathematics and of one of its most compelling exponents in modern times.

The history of life on Earth is, in some form or another, known to us all--or so we think. A *New History of Life* offers a provocative new account, based on the latest scientific research, of how life on our planet evolved--the first major new synthesis for general readers in two decades. Charles Darwin's theories, first published more than 150 years ago, form the backbone of how we understand the history of the Earth. In reality, the currently accepted history of life on Earth is so flawed, so out of date, that it's past time we need a 'New History of Life.' In their latest book, Joe Kirschvink and Peter Ward will show that many of our most cherished beliefs about the evolution of life are wrong. Gathering and analyzing years of discoveries and research not yet widely known to the public, *A New History of Life* proposes a different origin of species than the one Darwin proposed, one which includes eight-foot-long centipedes, a frozen "snowball Earth", and the seeds for life originating on Mars. Drawing on their years of experience in paleontology, biology, chemistry, and astrobiology, experts Ward and Kirschvink paint a picture of the origins life on Earth that are at once too fabulous to imagine and too familiar to dismiss--and looking

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forward, *A New History of Life* brilliantly assembles insights from some of the latest scientific research to understand how life on Earth can and might evolve far into the future.

This arsenal of tips and techniques eases new students into undergraduate mathematics, unlocking the world of definitions, theorems, and proofs.

Math rocks! At least it does in the gifted hands of Sean Connolly, who blends middle school math with fantasy to create an exciting adventure in problem-solving. These word problems are perilous, do-or-die scenarios of blood-sucking vampires (How many months would it take a single vampire to completely take over a town of 500,000 people?), or a rowboat of 5 shipwrecked sailors with a single barrel of freshwater (How much can they drink, and for how long, before they go mad from thirst???). Each problem requires readers to dig deep into the tools they 're learning in school to figure out how to survive. Kids will love solving these problems. Sean Connolly knows how to make tough subjects exciting and he brings that same intuitive understanding of what inspires and challenges kids ' curiosity to the 24 problems in *The Book of Perfectly Perilous Math*. These problems are as fun to read as they are challenging to solve. They test readers on fractions, algebra, geometry, probability, expressions and equations, and more. Use geometry to fill in for the ship ' s navigator and make it safely to the New World. Escape an evil Duke ' s executioner by picking the right door—probability will save your neck.

Photographs accompanied by autobiographical text written by each mathematician.

In 2010, French mathematician Cédric Villani received the Fields Medal, the most coveted prize in mathematics, in recognition of a proof which he devised with his close collaborator Clément Mouhot to explain one of the most surprising theories in classical physics. *Birth of a Theorem* is Villani's own account of the years leading up to the award. It invites readers inside the mind of a great mathematician as he wrestles with the most important work of his career. But you don't have to understand nonlinear Landau damping to love *Birth of a Theorem*. It doesn't simplify or overexplain; rather, it invites readers into collaboration. Villani's diaries, emails, and musings enmesh you in the process of discovery. You join him in unproductive lulls and late-night breakthroughs. You're privy to the dining-hall conversations at the world's greatest research institutions. Villani shares his favorite songs, his love of manga, and the imaginative stories he tells his children. In mathematics, as in any creative work, it is the thinker's whole life that propels discovery—and with *Birth of a Theorem*, Cédric Villani welcomes you into his.

“ One of the best critiques of current mathematics education I have ever seen. ” —Keith Devlin, math columnist on NPR ' s Morning Edition
A brilliant research mathematician who has devoted his career to teaching kids reveals math to be creative and beautiful and rejects standard anxiety-producing teaching methods. Witty and accessible, Paul Lockhart ' s controversial approach will provoke spirited debate among educators and parents alike and it will alter the way we think about math forever. Paul Lockhart, has taught mathematics at Brown University and UC Santa Cruz. Since 2000, he has dedicated himself to K-12 level students at St. Ann ' s School in Brooklyn, New York.

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"Using the mathematician's method of analyzing life and exposing the hard-won insights of the academic community to the layman, minus the jargon ... Ellenberg pulls from history as well as from the latest theoretical developments to provide those not trained in math with the knowledge they need"--

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