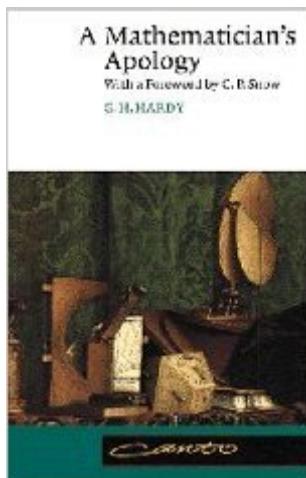The book was found

A Mathematician's Apology (Canto)

Synopsis

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.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A Mathematician's Apology is a profoundly sad book, the memoir of a man who has reached the end of his ambition, who can no longer effectively practice the art that has consumed him since he was a boy. But at the same time, it is a joyful celebration of the subject--and a stern lecture to those who would sully it by dilettantism or attempts to make it merely useful. "The mathematician's patterns," G.H. Hardy declares, "like the painter's or the poet's, must be beautiful; the ideas, like the colours or the words, must fit together in a harmonious way. Beauty is the first test: there is no permanent place in the world for ugly mathematics." Hardy was, in his own words, "for a short time

the fifth best pure mathematician in the world" and knew full well that "no mathematician should ever allow himself to forget that mathematics, more than any other art or science, is a young man's game." In a long biographical foreword to Apology, C.P. Snow (now best known for The Two Cultures) offers invaluable background and a context for his friend's occasionally brusque tone: "His life remained the life of a brilliant young man until he was old; so did his spirit: his games, his interests, kept the lightness of a young don's. And, like many men who keep a young man's interests into their sixties, his last years were the darker for it." Reading Snow's recollections of Hardy's Cambridge University years only makes Apology more poignant. Hardy was popular, a terrific conversationalist, and a notoriously good cricket player. When summer came, it was taken for granted that we should meet at the cricket ground.... He used to walk round the cinderpath with a long, loping, clumping-footed stride (he was a slight spare man, physically active even in his late fifties, still playing real tennis), head down, hair, tie, sweaters, papers all flowing, a figure that caught everyone's eyes. "There goes a Greek poet, I'll be bound," once said some cheerful farmer as Hardy passed the score-board. G.H. Hardy's elegant 1940 memoir has provided generations of mathematicians with pithy quotes and examples for their office walls, and plenty of inspiration to either be great or find something else to do. He is a worthy mentor, a man who understood deeply and profoundly the rewards and losses of true devotion. --Therese Littleton

'Generations of readers, both in and out of mathematics, have read Apology as one of the most eloquent descriptions in our language of the pleasure and power of mathematical invention.' The New Yorker'Great mathematicians rarely write about themselves or about their work, and few of them would have the literary gift to compose an essay of such charm, candour and insight ... a manifesto for mathematics itself.' The Guardian'Hardy's book is carefully reasoned, beautifully written and very stimulating; ... it can profitably be read by anyone.' New Scientist'A beautiful book written by a leading mathematician of the time.' BBC Focus

This is not the actual version of the original GH Hardy book. It is a condensed and highly edited version, spanning only 51 pages (the real one is 154 pages long). That one can be found here in , and indeed in the product description this one states the true length, but when you are shopping here you really don't read those details. All the insights and depth of Hardy's original work are lost in this one, as it seems to have been edited for somebody that needed to cheat on a math test.

As Hardy himself makes clear in the beginning, he would never have written such a book if his

mathematical powers had not failed him in old age. I do feel like this book is more an apology for not being a mathematician anymore than for having been one. As for all true loves, the time for judging and summings things up comes only when the joyful days of passion are over. I was hoping this book would give me an inspired first person view of what is higher mathematics and what is like to be a real mathematician. I found that it is not a good book for that, it doesn' t even try it. What it accomplishes instead is giving a precise, objective, cruel, marhematically clear picture of the drive, the ambition, the passion for excellence in any activity, be it a sport or a science that makes the life of the ones who dedicate their life to it so more pure and meaningful. It also poses some tough, fundamental questions regarding how much of your life one can dedicate to one single "abstract" passion without having to go trough some really bitter times and regrets in old age. My personal answer is that what really counts, in the end, is how much you loved and, what was sorely missing in Hardy's life, how much you express that love. But for some people, gifted and cursed at the same time, that is still not enough.

Splendid! An accessible perspective on the mind of a pure mathematician from the pen of the great Mathematicians of the early 20th century.The introduction by C. P. Snow is essential reading to have a perspective on Hardy's life(as well as it's melancholy conclusion) and the life of an Oxbridge Don at that time.A quick but fascinating read!!!!

Hardy was a giant among early 20th century mathematicians. It is difficult to overstate his importance. He was one of the first to show that mathematics is as much art as science without having to have interpretation (such as Dunham's "Journey Through Genius...").This is what makes this book so poignant. Hardy realizes that he no longer is Hardy. In today's mathematics world that may not have been the case given the immediate communications possible between humans which may have kept him going. However, it may have been that he was suffering from the onset of dementia or Alzheimer's - it is difficult to tell given his admissions of not being up to the task - regardless, this book is overwhelmingly sad.Anyone who cares about math should read this and thank Hardy for his contributions - plus they should have a copy of "A Course in Pure Mathematics".

The essay is what it is, and you can find an online copy of it--and I would've stuck with that option if I had known how bad this printing was. My sense of grammar is not that refined, but every other sentence had a misspelling or a misuse of punctuation. Undermined the reading experience.

I purchased this book 9/18/2012, on the back page, it reads "printed 9/18/2012"--interesting. The front and back of the sleeve is pixelated. The print is too large. But these are qualms with the publisher not the book. It's a nice piece of mathematical history and should be read by anyone who wants to culture themselves. Much easier read than Hardy's book on Number Theory anyway....(though inevitably less interesting).

I learned about this book while reading another book, "Prime Obsession" and it awoke my curiosity mainly for two reasons: because it was a interesting subject, an apology for being a mathematician, trying to explain the purpose and usufulness of mathematics, and because I wanted to know more about Hardy's life, since I knew a few things about the nice story of this mathematician and Ramanujan. This is a brief book, there is a foreword that serve as a brief biography before enjoying Hardy thoughts, which by the way really grab your attention, even you learn a few lessons of simple mathematics proofs that try to show the beauty of it. I consider this book valuable for everyone.

Hardy's work speaks for itself, but this edition lets it down. Rather pricy for the small number of pages, and full of annoying typos - appears to have been published by scanning/OCRing an earlier edition without anyone bothering to proofread the result. There may well be better editions out there-especially used ones.

A Mathematician's Apology (Canto) Letters to a Young Mathematician: Art of Mentoring Mathematician and Computer Scientist Grace Hopper (Stem Trailblazer Bios) NASA Mathematician Katherine Johnson (Stem Trailblazer Bios) Playing Smarter, Using Math: The Traveling Mathematician's Guide to Playing the Lottery Things to Make and Do in the Fourth Dimension: A Mathematician's Journey Through Narcissistic Numbers, Optimal Dating Algorithms, at Least Two Kinds of Infinity, and More Categories for the Working Mathematician (Graduate Texts in Mathematics) A Mathematician's Lament: How School Cheats Us Out of Our Most Fascinating and Imaginative Art Form A Mathematician Reads the Newspaper Is God a Mathematician? Finding Zero: A Mathematician's Odyssey to Uncover the Origins of Numbers Mathematics Education Research: A Guide for the Research Mathematician Niels Henrik Abel: Mathematician Extraordinary Irreligion: A Mathematician Explains Why the Arguments for God Just Don't Add Up Sorry, I Forgot to Ask!: My Story About Asking Permission and Making an Apology (Best Me I Can Be) Australians All : A History of Growing Up from the Ice Age to the Apology The Pilgrim's Regress: An Allegorical Apology for Christianity, Reason, and Romanticism An Apology of the Church of England by John

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