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The Invisible Gorilla Chaps. 3 & 4

In Chapter 3, after discussing the illusion of confidence, the author(s) say "This wouldn't be a problem if confidence in fact had a close relationship with these things, but the reality is that confidence and ability can diverge so far that relying on the former becomes a gigantic mental trap, with potentially disastrous consequences" (Chabris and Simmons 85). Although I do not agree that the illusion of confidence can have "disastrous consequences" like the authors say (maybe in a one in a million scenario), this passage perfectly describes the effects of the illusion of confidence. Confidence and ability almost always have no correlation, but our minds automatically link the two when assessing one's and others' abilities. This supposed linkage is the illusion of confidence, and can affect our lives more than we think.

In Chapter 4, the author(s) let you experience the illusion of memory first-hand. After asking the reader to rank objects based on their knowledge of it, the author(s) asks the reader to "Pick the object that you gave the highest rating, the one you feel you best understand... — try to generate a detailed step-by-step description of how it works... If you aren't sure how two steps are causally connected, you've uncovered a gap in your knowledge" (Chabris and Simmons 120-121). By letting the reader experience the illusion of knowledge with a little test, the author(s) strengthen their point about the genuineness of the illusion of knowledge. The illusion of knowledge causes us to overestimate our own knowledge about a subject or topic. But when asked certain questions that test our knowledge, we often are unable to produce answers to some

of the easiest questions. These shortcomings in our knowledge are revealed by these questions and can affect our lives.

Works Cited

Chabris, Christopher and Simmons, Daniel. *The Invisible Gorilla: How Our Intuitions Deceive Us*. New York: Broadway Paperbacks, 2009.