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## Once Upon A Number: A Mathematician Bridges Stories And Statistics

By Paulos, John Allen

Basic Books, 1998. Book Condition: New. Brand New, Unread Copy in Perfect Condition. A+ Customer Service! Summary: What could be more different than numbers and stories? Numbers are abstract and certain, but to most of us dry and bloodless. Good stories engage our emotions, but lack rigor and offer debatable truths. In *Once Upon a Number*, America's favorite mathematician demonstrates that stories and numbers are more similar than we think. In the press, John Allen Paulos makes complex mathematical concepts accessible and enjoyable for the layperson. Paulos's anecdotes and witty observations close the gap between deduction and induction". He shows how logic and probability grew out of intuitive ideas about how certain situations would play out. He discusses how logicians are inventing ways to deal with real-world situations by mathematical means -- by acknowledging, for example, that items that are mathematically interchangeable may not be interchangeable in a story. In his trademark style, Paulos intercuts cutting-edge information theory with hilarious and intriguing asides: instructions for running an impressive pyramid scam; a freewheeling conversation between Groucho Marx and Bertrand Russell; explanations of why the statistical evidence against O.J. Simpson was overwhelming; how the Unabomber's thinking shows signs of mathematical training; and dozens of...



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