



Peterson on an adventurous trek through an exotic world of weird dice, fractal drums, firefly rhythms, and chaotic amusement park rides, as he explores the wilds of randomness. A tricky, intriguing, even elusive concept, randomness affects our lives in an astonishing range of ways—from the fun of games we play and the noise that spoils the music we hear to the ways viruses grow and atoms combine. Hidden rules and secret patterns lurk within apparently random events and chance encounters.

An eye-opening discovery awaits at every turn, from the simple secret behind winning a game of Chutes and Ladders to the reason why any group of six people must include at least three mutual acquaintances or three strangers, and why you can scratch a compact disk and still get flawless sound. We learn how a game of darts can provide a remarkably good estimate of the value of π , how pacemaker cells in the heart begin to beat in synchrony, and how carefully designed chaos translates into the thrilling ride of a Tilt-A-Whirl.

Along the way, we also meet a host of characters, both charming and eccentric, who either made striking discoveries about randomness or were profoundly affected by it. Like the case of Williard Longcor, a man gripped with a passion for throwing dice, who meticulously records the outcomes of millions of tosses and helps correct the theory of the distribution of runs.

The Jungles of Randomness offers a delightful journey into the exciting world of mathematical discovery and imparts a rare vision of the fundamental playfulness of mathematics in our lives.

—from John Wiley & Sons

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Undoing Depression

Richard O'Connor, Ph.D.

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Despite therapy and support from loved ones, the major reason people with depression stay depressed is that they don't know how else to be. In a futile effort to save themselves from pain, they have learned habits that feel normal and natural, like part of the self. But these emotional habits backfire; instead of reducing pain, they just perpetuate depression. This book, by a psychotherapist who has personally struggled with—and overcome—depression, teaches you how to unlearn the "skills of depression" and replace them with healthier, more adaptive ways of being.

Against the backdrop of a thought-provoking discussion of the nature of depression, highlighted by vivid and moving case studies, Richard O'Connor presents a program for undoing depression. He begins by reviewing five key elements of our personality in which depression affects functioning—emotions, behavior, thinking, relationships, and the self. He explains how skills we develop in these areas, such as emotional control, isolation, putting others first, and being overresponsible, actually prevent our recovery. It is only by making a deliberate effort to rid ourselves of these depressed habits that we can be cured. With clear, step-by-step explanations and exercises, O'Connor imparts positive behavioral skills and demonstrates how to put them to work in a wide range of life

situations, from love, marriage, and divorce to work, family, and community. By showing you how to integrate new ways of thinking, acting, relating, and feeling into your life, he enables you to once more enjoy a vital, rich existence.

—from Little Brown

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