

The Weekly Newsmagazine of Science

SCIENCE NEWS

February 6, 1999
Vol. 155, No. 6
Pages 81-96

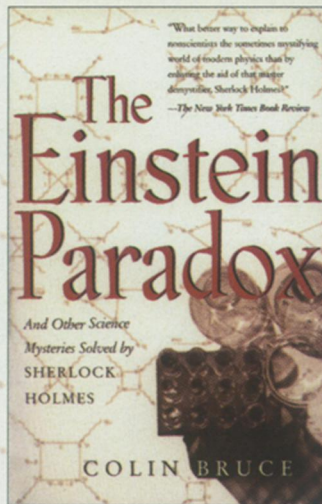
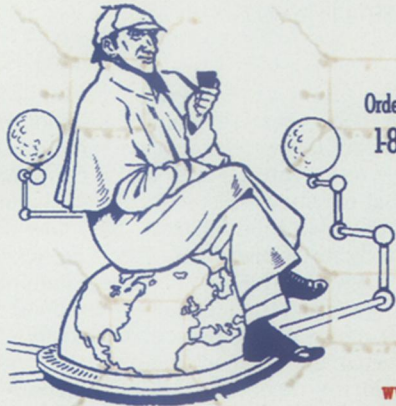


Stranded in Humanity's Past

This is the story of the great paradigm shifts of science, told as never before: in **Sherlock Holmes** adventures set amid the grandeur and squalor of Victorian London.

From Paradigms Past...

The first stories involve the overthrow of ancient fallacies. A death by spontaneous combustion, for example, is blamed on a wandering cloud of phlogiston—but will this explanation stand up to Sherlock Holmes' scrutiny?



Order by phone for faster service!

1-800-266-5766 Dept. 1494

Visa, MasterCard, or American Express

Perseus Bks, 1998
254 pages
5 3/8" x 8 1/4",
paperback, \$12.00

See our Web site at
www.sciencenewsbooks.org

A SERVICE OF SCIENCE NEWS BOOKS

Through Relativity...

Subsequent cases turn on problems of relative motion and timing, culminating in a terrifying question: Just how much energy does an anarchist's bomb the size of a grapefruit contain, according to the laws of physics?

To Quantum Theory

More subtle crimes relate to quantum effects. A crooked lottery offering impossibly favorable odds turns out to involve the "spooky links" of the EPR paradox. The strangest story is based on real life: A physicist at the Santa Fe Institute was challenged to prove his faith in a widely accepted interpretation of quantum theory in the only way possible—by taking part in a bizarre game of Russian roulette. Here the challenge is accepted.

BooksNow The Virtual Bookstore™

348 East 6400 South, Suite 220, Salt Lake City, UT 84107

Please send me _____ copy(ies) of THE EINSTEIN PARADOX. I include a check payable to Books Now for \$12.00 plus \$4.95 postage and handling for the first book (total \$16.95). Add \$2.50 for postage and handling for each additional book.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Daytime Phone _____

(used only for problems with order)



Order by phone for faster service!

1-800-266-5766

Dept. 1494

Visa, MasterCard, or American Express



(A service of
Science News Books)



See our web site at
www.sciencenewsbooks.org



John Wiley & Sons, 1998, 383 pages
6" x 9", paperback, \$14.95

BooksNow The Virtual Bookstore™

348 East 6400 South, Suite 220
Salt Lake City, UT 84107

Please send me _____ copy(ies) of *Against the Gods*. I include a check payable to Books Now for \$14.95 plus \$4.95 postage and handling for the first book (total \$19.90). Add \$2.50 for postage and handling for each additional book.

Name _____

Address _____

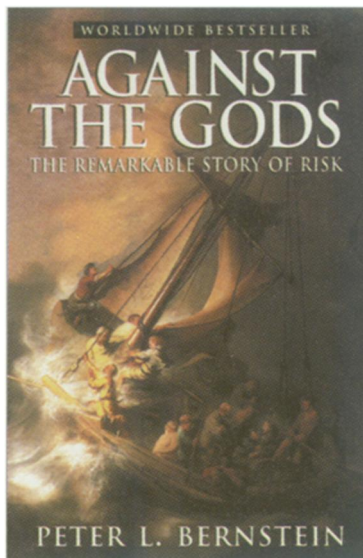
City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Daytime Phone _____

(used only for problems with order)

In this unique exploration of the role of risk in our society, Peter Bernstein argues that the notion of bringing risk under control is one of the central ideas that distinguishes modern times from the more distant past.



When investors buy stocks, surgeons perform operations, engineers design bridges, entrepreneurs launch new businesses, astronauts explore the heavens, and politicians run for office, risk is their inescapable partner. Yet their actions reveal that risk today need not be feared: Managing risk has become synonymous with challenge and opportunity.

Bernstein presents fascinating vignettes of such towering intellects as Omar Khayyam, Blaise Pascal, Thomas Bayes and John Maynard Keynes, Harry Markowitz and Kenneth Arrow, and Carl Friedrich Gauss, Francis Galton, and John von Neumann. With his engaging literary style, he clarifies the concepts of probability, sampling, regression to the

mean, game theory, and rational versus irrational decision making. The final sections of the book raise important questions about the role of the computer, the relationship between facts and subjective beliefs, the impact of chaos theory, the role of the burgeoning market for derivatives, and the looming dominance of numbers.

—John Wiley & Sons

