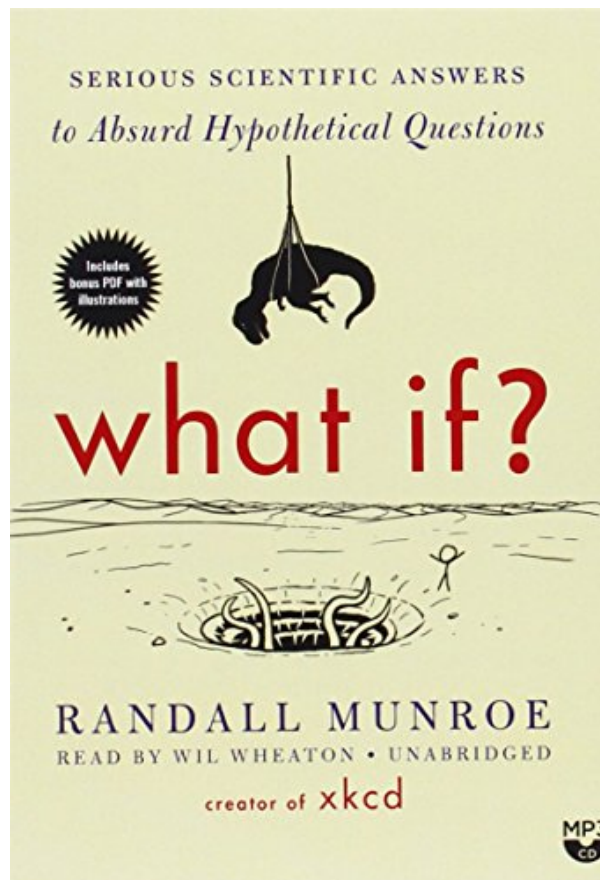
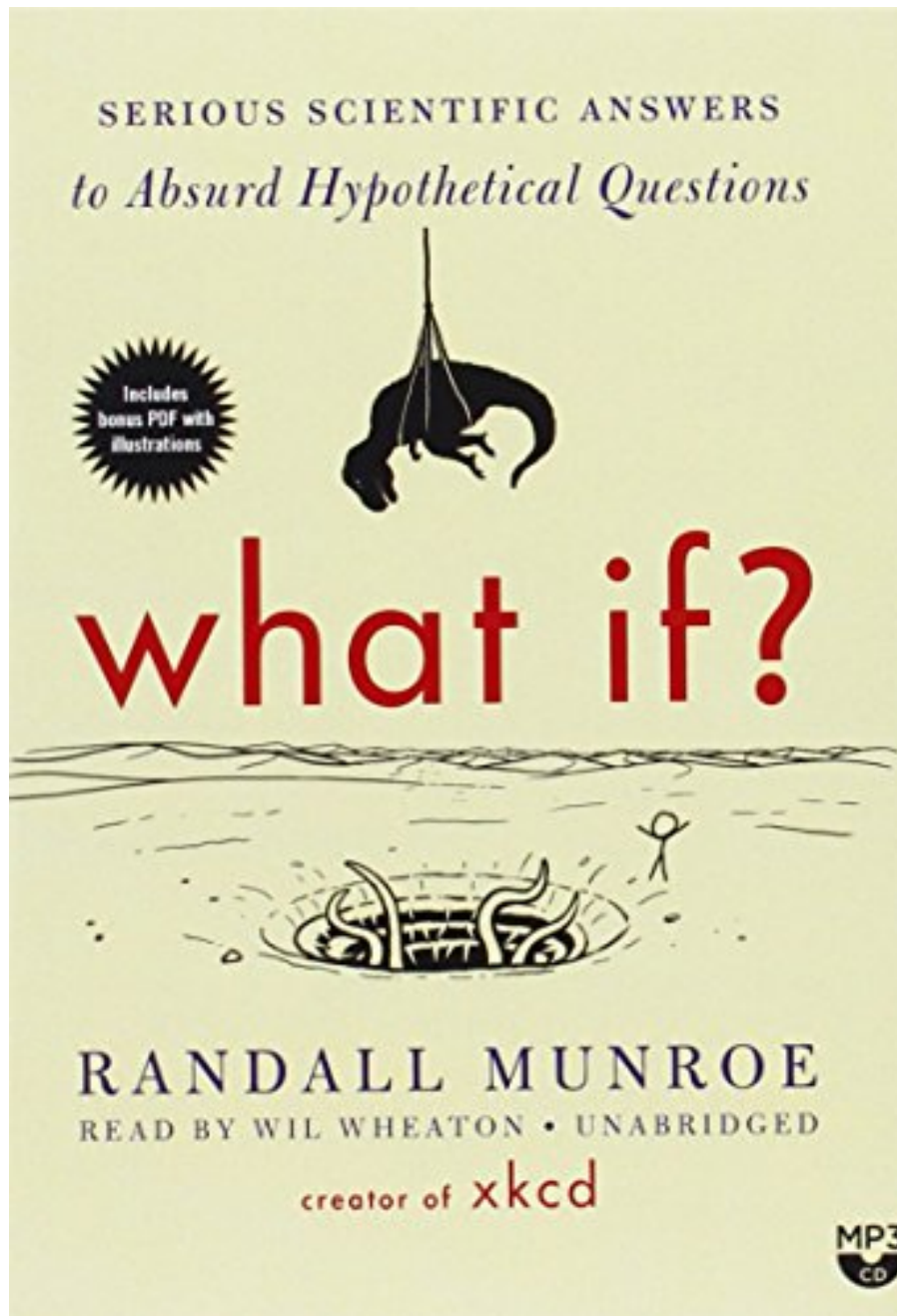


WHAT IF? SERIOUS SCIENTIFIC ANSWERS TO ABSURD HYPOTHETICAL QUESTIONS BY RANDALL MUNROE



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Amazon.com Review

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Review

"*What If?* is one of my Internet must-reads, and I look forward to each new installment, and always read it with delight." —Cory Doctorow, BoingBoing

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"For scientists, the price of progress is specialization. When the goal of any researcher is to lay claim to a tiny niche in a crowded discipline, it's hard for laypeople to find answers to the really important interdisciplinary questions. Questions like, 'Is it possible to build a jetpack using downward-firing machine guns?' Fortunately, such people can turn to Randall Munroe, the author of the XKCD comic strip loved by fans of internet culture. . . . For Munroe, who writes with a clarity and wit honed over eight years of writing captions for his webcomic, the fact that a question might be impossible to solve is no deterrent to pursuing it." —Wall Street Journal Speakeasy blog

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[Read by Wil Wheaton]

From the creator of the wildly popular webcomic xkcd comes this hilarious and informative book of answers to important questions you probably never thought to ask.

Millions of people visit xkcd.com each week to read Randall Munroe's iconic webcomic. His stickfigure drawings about science, technology, language, and love have a large and passionate following. Fans of xkcd ask Munroe a lot of strange questions. What if you tried to hit a baseball pitched at 90 percent of the speed of light? How fast can you hit a speed bump while driving and live? If there were a robot apocalypse, how long would humanity last?

In pursuit of answers, Munroe runs computer simulations, pores over stacks of declassified military research memos, solves differential equations, and consults with nuclear reactor operators. His responses are masterpieces of clarity and hilarity, complemented by signature xkcd comics. They often predict the complete annihilation of humankind, or at least a really big explosion.

The book features new and neverbeforeanswered questions, along with updated and expanded versions of the most popular answers from the xkcd website. "What If?" will be required reading for xkcd fans and anyone who loves to ponder the hypothetical.

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Most helpful customer reviews

196 of 207 people found the following review helpful.

I love the blog and was really looking forward to this ...

By Adam Wisecarver

I love the blog and was really looking forward to this book, but buying the kindle edition was a mistake.

There are a lot of missing images, and many of them are also strangely enlarged or shrunk. I'll probably buy the hardcover edition later, anyone looking to buy this stay away from the kindle.

349 of 380 people found the following review helpful.

A book that fascinates and inspires one's inner child. Also great for kids!

By Richard North Jr.

About half (51%, according to the book, which seems about right) of the questions answered in this book are original, and have never been posted on the xkcd what if? website (<https://what-if.xkcd.com/>).

Even though I'd already read the other 49%, I re-read them and was glad I did, as Munroe has added a few things here and there; plus, this stuff is just eminently re-readable. It's the perfect combination of irreverent, rigorous, technical, and fascinating. I look forward to every new "What If" (he posts them each Tuesday or Wednesday) and am always delighted to read the latest.

Even if you've read every "What if" ever posted to the website, this book is still for you - it's especially for you! This is a great way to enjoy older questions and answers over again, updated, and to share them with new people, and the new questions and answers - never featured on the website - are delightful; I won't spoil it for you, but my favorite has to be the answer to "If a bullet with the density of a neutron star were fired from a handgun (ignoring the how) at the Earth's surface, would the Earth be destroyed?"

If you have even a passing interest in science and ever enjoy daydreaming about the fantastic or the ridiculous, this book is for you. If you don't think that you enjoy those things, this book will prove to you that you do.

Also, this is a really great gift idea for basically anyone in your life who can read. Kids will love it, adults will love it (I'm ordering a copy for my dad's birthday), and they will be hooked from the first page (who hasn't wondered what would happen if the Earth suddenly stopped spinning?)

Gift season is coming up; thanks to this book my Christmas shopping will be a great deal easier. I don't usually write reviews, but I logged in and made an exception here. I cannot offer higher praise. Enjoy!

10 of 10 people found the following review helpful.

Three months wait and not a single super-sonic windstorm.

By Russ Nasrallah

It's been a long three months, but at least the earth and all it's terrestrial objects didn't stop spinning while I waited.

I pre-ordered this book in June and enough time had elapsed in the ensuing weeks that I was pleasantly surprised and mildly curious when a nondescript package arrived at my door late last night.

As I ripped the corrugated cardboard open I was assaulted by bright red embossing on a tasteful white cover. "What If?" The dust jacket inquired.

I was reminded of the eponymous Hitchhikers Guide with the words "...DON'T PANIC inscribed in large friendly letters on its cover."

Firstly, the quality of the printing is excellent. Images are crisp and the book has a nice weight and expensive feel.

Randall's signature attention to detail is prevalent throughout the entire construction from the map on the inside of the dust jacket to the excellent footnotes sprinkled throughout the text.

I do not think I am going to far in saying that this book is the epitome of scientific inquiry.

Ask questions, learn something.

It manages to educate, empower, and entertain all in the same stroke.

Mr. Munroe has joined the likes of Bill Nye, Neil Degrasse Tyson, Carl Sagan, and Richard Feynman in the

echelon of excellent science communicators.

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Guides What If? Serious Scientific Answers To Absurd Hypothetical Questions By Randall Munroe, from easy to challenging one will certainly be a quite useful jobs that you could take to transform your life. It will certainly not offer you negative declaration unless you do not get the definition. This is certainly to do in reviewing a book to overcome the definition. Commonly, this publication qualified What If? Serious Scientific Answers To Absurd Hypothetical Questions By Randall Munroe is reviewed because you really like this type of book. So, you could get easier to recognize the impression and meaning. Again to consistently keep in mind is by reading this book **What If? Serious Scientific Answers To Absurd Hypothetical Questions By Randall Munroe**, you could fulfil hat your interest beginning by completing this reading publication.

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