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PERFECT RIGOR: A Genius and the Mathematical Breakthrough of the Century The story of Russian mathematical prodigy Grigory Perelman, who solved a problem that had stumped everyone for a century—then walked away from his chosen field.

### Perfect Rigor: A Genius and the Mathematical Breakthrough ...

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Perfect Rigor: [A Genius] + [The Mathematical Breakthrough of the Century] . Houghton Harcourt. Nov. 2009. c.256p. index. ISBN 978-0-15-101406-4. \$26. MATH The "genius" here is Russian mathematician Grigory Perelman, who announced in 2002 a proof of the Poincaré Conjecture, a complex problem that had resisted the best efforts of the ...

## **Perfect Rigor : A Genius and the Mathematical Breakthrough ...**

Perfect Rigor: A Genius and the Mathematical Breakthrough of the Century}, author= {D. O'Shea}, year= {2011} } Gregory Perelman's proof of the Poincaré conjecture in 2002 and 2003 ranks as the greatest scientific achievement of the last decade.

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Perfect Rigor: A Genius and the Mathematical Breakthrough of the Century Reviewed by Donal O'Shea Perfect Rigor: A Genius and the Mathematical Breakthrough of the Century Masha Gessen Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2009 US\$26.00, 256 pages ISBN-13: 978-0151014064 Gregory Perelman's proof of the Poincaré conjec-

## **Perfect Rigor: A Genius and the Mathematical Breakthrough ...**

Perfect Rigor: A Genius and the Mathematical Breakthrough of the Century. Hardcover – Nov. 11 2009. by Masha Gessen (Author) 4.2 out of 5 stars 71 ratings. See all 3 formats and editions. Hide other formats and editions.

## **Perfect Rigor: A Genius and the Mathematical Breakthrough ...**

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Posted on October 30, 2009 by [woit](#) I just finished reading author Masha Gessen's new book about Grigori Perelman, Perfect Rigor: A Genius and the Mathematical Breakthrough of the Century. It's a short but very well done account of the life of Grigori Perelman, how he came to prove the Poincare Conjecture, and what has transpired since.

## **Perfect Rigor | Not Even Wrong**

Perfect Rigour: A Genius and the Mathematical Breakthrough of the Century by Masha Gessen – review Robin McKie enjoys a dogged attempt to shed some light on the life and work of the eccentric maths...

## **Perfect Rigour: A Genius and the Mathematical Breakthrough ...**

Perfect Rigor: A Genius and the Mathematical Breakthrough of the Century. Masha Gessen. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, Nov 11, 2009 - Biography & Autobiography - 256 pages. 6 Reviews. A gripping and tragic tale that sheds rare light on the unique burden of genius. In 2006, an eccentric Russian mathematician named Grigori Perelman solved the ...

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## **Genius who shuns the limelight | Nature**

Publisher Description A gripping and tragic tale that sheds rare light on the unique burden of genius In 2006, an eccentric Russian mathematician named Grigori Perelman solved the Poincare Conjecture, an extremely complex topological problem that had eluded the best minds for over a century.

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In 2006, an eccentric Russian mathematician named Grigori Perelman solved one of the world's greatest intellectual puzzles. The Poincare conjecture is an extremely complex topological problem that had eluded the best minds for over a century. In 2000, the Clay Institute in Boston named it one of seven great unsolved mathematical problems, and promised a million dollars to anyone who could find a solution. Perelman was awarded the prize this year - and declined the money. Journalist Masha Gessen was determined to find out why. Drawing on interviews with Perelman's teachers, classmates, coaches, teammates, and colleagues in Russia and the US - and informed by her own background as a math whiz raised in Russia - she set out to uncover the nature of Perelman's astonishing abilities. In telling his story, Masha Gessen has constructed a gripping and tragic tale that sheds rare light on the unique burden of genius.

A gripping and tragic tale that sheds rare light on the unique burden of genius In 2006, an eccentric Russian mathematician named Grigori Perelman solved the Poincare Conjecture, an extremely complex topological problem that had eluded the best minds for over a century. A prize of one million dollars was offered to anyone who could unravel it, but Perelman declined the winnings, and in doing so inspired journalist Masha Gessen to tell his story. Drawing on interviews with Perelman's teachers, classmates, coaches, teammates, and colleagues in Russia and the United States—and informed by her own background as a math whiz raised in Russia—Gessen uncovered a mind of unrivaled computational power, one that enabled Perelman to pursue mathematical concepts to their logical (sometimes distant) end. But she also discovered that this very strength turned out to be Perelman's undoing and the reason for his withdrawal, first from the world of mathematics and then, increasingly, from the world in general.

A biography of the Indian mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan. The book gives a detailed account of his upbringing in India, his mathematical achievements, and his mathematical collaboration with English mathematician G. H. Hardy. The book also reviews the life of Hardy and the academic culture of Cambridge University during the early twentieth century.

### Sample Text

The advancement of the knowledge frontier is crucial for technological innovation and human progress. Using novel data from the setting of mathematics, this paper establishes two results. First, we document that individuals who demonstrate exceptional talent in their teenage years have an irreplaceable ability to create new ideas over their lifetime, suggesting that talent is a central ingredient in the production of knowledge. Second, such talented individuals born in low- or middle-income countries are systematically less likely to become knowledge producers. Our findings suggest that policies to encourage exceptionally-talented youth to pursue scientific careers—especially those from

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lower income countries—could accelerate the advancement of the knowledge frontier.

In August 1859 Bernhard Riemann, a little-known 32-year old mathematician, presented a paper to the Berlin Academy titled: "On the Number of Prime Numbers Less Than a Given Quantity." In the middle of that paper, Riemann made an incidental remark "a guess, a hypothesis. What he tossed out to the assembled mathematicians that day has proven to be almost cruelly compelling to countless scholars in the ensuing years. Today, after 150 years of careful research and exhaustive study, the question remains. Is the hypothesis true or false? Riemann's basic inquiry, the primary topic of his paper, concerned a straightforward but nevertheless important matter of arithmetic "defining a precise formula to track and identify the occurrence of prime numbers. But it is that incidental remark "the Riemann Hypothesis" that is the truly astonishing legacy of his 1859 paper. Because Riemann was able to see beyond the pattern of the primes to discern traces of something mysterious and mathematically elegant shrouded in the shadows "subtle variations in the distribution of those prime numbers. Brilliant for its clarity, astounding for its potential consequences, the Hypothesis took on enormous importance in mathematics. Indeed, the successful solution to this puzzle would herald a revolution in prime number theory. Proving or disproving it became the greatest challenge of the age. It has become clear that the Riemann Hypothesis, whose resolution seems to hang tantalizingly just beyond our grasp, holds the key to a variety of scientific and mathematical investigations. The making and breaking of modern codes, which depend on the properties of the prime numbers, have roots in the Hypothesis. In a series of extraordinary developments during the 1970s, it emerged that even the physics of the atomic nucleus is connected in ways not yet fully understood to this strange conundrum. Hunting down the solution to the Riemann Hypothesis has become an obsession for many "the veritable "great white whale" of mathematical research. Yet despite determined efforts by generations of mathematicians, the Riemann Hypothesis defies resolution. Alternating passages of extraordinarily lucid mathematical exposition with chapters of elegantly composed biography and history, *Prime Obsession* is a fascinating and fluent account of an epic mathematical mystery that continues to challenge and excite the world. Posited a century and a half ago, the Riemann Hypothesis is an intellectual feast for the cognoscenti and the curious alike. Not just a story of numbers and calculations, *Prime Obsession* is the engrossing tale of a relentless hunt for an elusive proof "and those who have been consumed by it.

In 1929, the Soviet Union declared the area of Birobidzhan a homeland for Jews. It was championed by a group of intellectuals who envisioned a place of post-oppression Jewish culture, and by the early 1930s, tens of thousands of Jews had moved there from the shtetls. The state-building ended quickly, in the late 1930s, with arrests and purges of the Communist Party and cultural elite, but after the Second World War, the newly named "Jewish Autonomous Region" received an influx of Jews dispossessed from what had once been the Pale, most of whom had lost families in the Holocaust. In the late 1940s, another wave of arrests swept through Birobidzhan, traumatizing the Jews into silence, and effectively making them invisible. Now Masha Gessen gives us a haunting account of the dream of Birobidzhan—and how it became

Virgil Flowers will have to watch his back--and his mouth--as he investigates a college culture war turned deadly in another one of Sandford's "madly entertaining Virgil Flowers mysteries" (New York Times Book Review). At the local state university, two feuding departments have faced off on the battleground of science and medicine. Each carries their views to extremes that may seem absurd, but highly educated

people of sound mind and good intentions can reasonably disagree, right? Then a renowned and confrontational scholar winds up dead, and Virgil Flowers is brought in to investigate . . . and as he probes the recent ideological unrest, he soon comes to realize he's dealing with people who, on this one particular issue, are functionally crazy. Among this group of wildly impassioned, diametrically opposed zealots lurks a killer, and it will be up to Virgil to sort the murderer from the mere maniacs.

On the night of March 26, 1938, nuclear physicist Ettore Majorana boarded a ship, cash and passport in hand. He was never seen again. In *A Brilliant Darkness*, theoretical physicist João Magueijo tells the story of Majorana and his research group, “the Via Panisperna Boys,” who discovered atomic fission in 1934. As Majorana, the most brilliant of the group, began to realize the implications of what they had found, he became increasingly unstable. Did he commit suicide that night in Palermo? Was he kidnapped? Did he stage his own death? *A Brilliant Darkness* chronicles Majorana's invaluable contributions to science—including his major discovery, the Majorana neutrino—while revealing the truth behind his fascinating and tragic life.

“What Bodanis does brilliantly is to give us a feel for Einstein as a person. I don't think I've ever read a book that does this as well” (*Popular Science*). In this “fascinating” biography, the acclaimed author of  $E=mc^2$  reveals that in spite of his indisputable brilliance, Albert Einstein found himself ignored by most working scientists during the final decades of his life, his ideas opposed by even his closest friends (*Forbes*). How did this happen? Einstein revolutionized our understanding of the cosmos with his general theory of relativity, and helped lead us into the atomic age. This book goes beyond his remarkable intellect and accomplishments to examine the man himself, from the skeptical, erratic student to the world's greatest physicist to the fallen-from-grace celebrity. An intimate biography that “imparts fresh insight into the genius—and failures—of the 20th century's most celebrated scientist,” *Einstein's Greatest Mistake* reveals what we owe Einstein today—and how much more he might have achieved if not for his all-too-human flaws (*Publishers Weekly*). Named a *Science Book of the Year* by the *Sunday Times* and one of the *Top Five Science Books of 2016* by *ABC News Australia*, this unique book “offers a window onto Einstein's achievements and missteps, as well as his life—his friendships, his complicated love life (two marriages, many affairs) and his isolation from other scientists at the end of his life” (*BookPage*).

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