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Quick and Honest Review of \"The Black

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Arts\ " by Richard Cavendish! Periapt
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which is why there is increasing central
bank fixation on one or two elusive
numerical targets (“ eight million jobs
lost ” , “ 2% inflation target ” etc.). In his
2010 book “ Proofiness ...

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From the author of *Zero*, comes this "admirable salvo against quantitative bamboozlement by the media and the government" (The Boston Globe) In *Zero*, Charles Seife presented readers with a thrilling account of the strangest number

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known to humankind. Now he shows readers how the power of skewed metrics- or "proofiness"- is being used to alter perception in both amusing and dangerous ways. Proofiness is behind such bizarre stories as a mathematical formula for the perfect butt and sprinters who can run faster than the speed of sound. But

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proofiness also has a dark side: bogus mathematical formulas used to undermine our democracy-subverting our justice system, fixing elections, and swaying public opinion with lies. By doing the real math, Seife elegantly and good-humoredly scrutinizes our growing obsession with metrics while exposing those who misuse

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them.
Charles Seife

The bestselling author of "Zero" shows how mathematical misinformation pervades-- and shapes-- our daily lives.

The best-selling author of New York Times Notable Book Zero shows how

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Mathematical Misinformation

pervades--and shapes--people's daily lives
and is used to bring down government
officials, convict the innocent, ruin the
U.S. economy and more.

Chronicles the last half century's
haphazard attempt to harness fusion

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energy, describing how governments and research teams throughout the world have employed measures ranging from the controversial to the humorous.

Stephen Hawking was widely recognized as the world's best physicist and even the most brilliant man alive – but what if his

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Mathematical Deception? When Stephen Hawking died, he was widely recognized as the world's best physicist, and even its smartest person. He was neither. In *Hawking Hawking*, science journalist Charles Seife explores how Stephen Hawking came to be thought of as humanity's greatest genius. Hawking

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Charles Seife

spent his career grappling with deep questions in physics, but his renown didn't rest on his science. He was a master of self-promotion, hosting parties for time travelers, declaring victory over problems he had not solved, and wooing billionaires. In a wheelchair and physically dependent on a cadre of devotees, Hawking still

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managed to captivate the people around him—and use them for his own purposes.

A brilliant expos é and powerful biography, Hawking Hawking uncovers the authentic Hawking buried underneath the fake. It is the story of a man whose brilliance in physics was matched by his genius for building his own myth.

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A NEW YORK TIMES NOTABLE

BOOK The Babylonians invented it, the Greeks banned it, the Hindus worshipped it, and the Christian Church used it to fend off heretics. Today it's a timebomb ticking in the heart of astrophysics. For zero, infinity's twin, is not like other

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numbers. It is both nothing and

everything. Zero has pitted East against

West and faith against reason, and its

intransigence persists in the dark core of a

black hole and the brilliant flash of the Big

Bang. Today, zero lies at the heart of one

of the biggest scientific controversies of all

time: the quest for a theory of everything.

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Charles Seife

Within the concept of zero lies a philosophical and scientific history of humanity. Charles Seife's elegant and witty account takes us from Aristotle to superstring theory by way of Egyptian geometry, Kabbalism, Einstein, the Chandrasekhar limit and Stephen Hawking. Covering centuries of thought, it

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is a concise tour of a world of ideas, bound up in the simple notion of nothing.

Explains the solar system in terms of storms, natural disasters, volcanoes, hail, tornadoes, and the possibility of life on other planets.

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Bullshit isn't what it used to be. Now, two science professors give us the tools to dismantle misinformation and think clearly in a world of fake news and bad data. “ A modern classic . . . a straight-talking survival guide to the mean streets of a dying democracy and a global pandemic. ” —Wired Misinformation,

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disinformation, and fake news abound and it ' s increasingly difficult to know what ' s true. Our media environment has become hyperpartisan. Science is conducted by press release. Startup culture elevates bullshit to high art. We are fairly well equipped to spot the sort of old-school bullshit that is based in fancy rhetoric and

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weasel words, but most of us don't feel qualified to challenge the avalanche of new-school bullshit presented in the language of math, science, or statistics. In *Calling Bullshit*, Professors Carl Bergstrom and Jevin West give us a set of powerful tools to cut through the most intimidating data. You don't need a lot of technical

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expertise to call out problems with data. Are the numbers or results too good or too dramatic to be true? Is the claim comparing like with like? Is it confirming your personal bias? Drawing on a deep well of expertise in statistics and computational biology, Bergstrom and West exuberantly unpack examples of

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selection bias and muddled data visualization, distinguish between correlation and causation, and examine the susceptibility of science to modern bullshit. We have always needed people who call bullshit when necessary, whether within a circle of friends, a community of scholars, or the citizenry of a nation. Now

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that bullshit has evolved, we need to
relearn the art of skepticism.

Presents a humorous summation of the history of humanity and our achievements in society, government, religion, science, and culture.

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