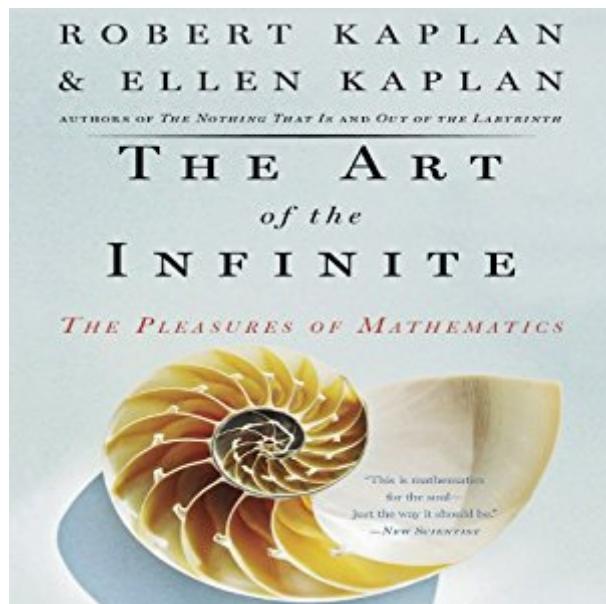


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The Art Of The Infinite: The Pleasures Of Mathematics



Synopsis

The Art of the Infinite takes infinity, in its countless guises, as a touchstone for understanding mathematical thinking. Robert and Ellen Kaplan guide us through the "Republic of Numbers," where we meet both its upstanding citizens and its more shadowy dwellers; and transport us across the plane of geometry into the unlikely realm where parallel lines meet. The journey is enriched by deft character studies of great mathematicians (and equally colorful lesser ones). And as we go deeper into infinity, we explore the most profound mystery of mathematics: Are its principles eternal truths that we discover? Or ones that we invent?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The Kaplans write hugely entertaining and enlightening books on math.

You can follow most of the math discussion without be a degreed mathematician, and there are some very surprising discoveries. A good book by professors with a wonderful writing style.

Casual reading. Fun math patterns. But sometimes the author is a little more poetic than he should be.

If you are young and have not read a lot you will not appreciate this book. :-) This book is for literate folks who want to learn about some important math ideas.

This book covers some very fine topics in math. It attempts to balance mathematical rigor with

analogies and interesting historical points. The attempt however is not totally sucessful because the language used is too obscure. The mathematical topics discussed are complex enough by themselves and the additional obscure language makes them that much harder to understand. I would have vastly preferred the use of stright forward English for the discussion. The analogies and historical facts could have been presented separately alongside the main discussion. Nevertheless I enjoyed reading it and will recommend it to others as long as they have a good command of English and are willing to go along with the less than ideal presentation.

Gives insights into how mathematical concepts developed, beyond what one usually gets in math classes (which only show the results). Not the easiest reading, but accessible to a general audience if you're willing to take the time to think through the concepts as they are presented, and engaging in the way it brings out connections to other disciplines such as music, art, literature, as well as what you might expect (e.g. physics).

It is an book. Worthwhile reading.

This is a wonderful book. It makes math pleasurable. It is not an easy read but it is a great read and is clarifying things that were fuzzy in my mind.

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