

The book was found

# Being Wrong: Adventures In The Margin Of Error



ADVENTURES IN THE  
MARGIN OF ERROR

Kathryn Schulz



## Synopsis

“Both wise and clever, full of fun and surprise about a topic so central to our lives that we almost never even think about it.” —Bill McKibben, author of *Earth: Making a Life on a Tough New Planet*

In the tradition of *The Wisdom of Crowds* and *Predictably Irrational* comes *Being Wrong*, an illuminating exploration of what it means to be in error, and why homo sapiens tend to tacitly assume (or loudly insist) that they are right about most everything. Kathryn Schulz, editor of *Grist* magazine, argues that error is the fundamental human condition and should be celebrated as such. Guiding the reader through the history and psychology of error, from Socrates to Alan Greenspan, *Being Wrong* will change the way you perceive screw-ups, both of the mammoth and daily variety, forever.

## Book Information

File Size: 1396 KB

Print Length: 420 pages

Publisher: HarperCollins e-books; Reprint edition (May 25, 2010)

Publication Date: June 8, 2010

Sold by: HarperCollins Publishers

Language: English

ASIN: B003JBHW08

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #63,169 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #9 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Politics & Social Sciences > Philosophy > Movements > Humanism #28 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Philosophy > Movements > Humanism #30 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Politics & Social Sciences > Philosophy > Consciousness & Thought

## Customer Reviews

To err, we hear, is human. But if that is true, then why do we take erring so hard? This is the question Kathryn Schultz tries to get at in her book, *Being Wrong*. The first section analyzes error by recounting what philosophers, psychologists and others have thought about what it is and why it

happens. Next, we examines the factors that lead us to err: senses deceive us, reason is easily influenced by extra-rational factors, we trust experts we like instead of those who may be telling the truth, etc. The third section explores what it feels like to be wrong: we may get embarrassed, defensive, heartbroken, mystified, angry. And lastly, the author reveals why it is she believes error should be seen not as a gaffe to be avoided, but a gaffe that should be embraced and accepted as an an inevitable part of being a finite and dynamic human. First, I must say something I very rarely do about a book: I never once found this one repetitive or unnecessarily long. Each section, and chapter within it, is about a different aspect of error that was not discussed before, from how philosophers conceive of error, to the social factors that influence error, to our amazing capacity to deny even obvious error. And the real-world examples she chooses to illustrate all of these things are humorous, relateble, and sometimes a bit lamentable. And what is the author's unique theory about erring? The author writes first that erring is an inevitable part of being human. We are finite animals for whom probability is as close as we can come to certainty (even though certainty is what we want). Since life demands that we make decisions based on what we think will happen in the future, it is simply inevitable that some of these will be wrong.

One thing is for certain: Kathryn Schulz is a heckuva' writer. Her brilliant interchange between humor and articulation is the stuff of greatness. Moreover - and perhaps a by-product of Schulz' mastery in presentation - there are few (if any) wasted words in this text. While many books almost goad you into skimming every 2nd or 3rd word, 'Being Wrong' certainly makes every word count. For a guy with the attention span of a billy goat grazing grass, keeping me reading every word is no small feat. There is a tradeoff in such density in value. 'Being Wrong' tends to see-saw between light analogy to heavy exploration almost without warning, making for a staccato transition between example and execution. The philosophical arguments emerge as bloated at times, the case studies a tad soft and looooong. Word economy clearly has its strengths and weaknesses. Thus, I echo other reviewers in that this book might've been better served both shorter and as a potential essay. Amen. Going deeper down the content rabbit hole, it's hard to ignore Schulz' near-frequent lapses into political examples dripping with sarcasm favoring a particular perspective only. Perhaps I'm a stickler, but there something grossly unfit about an advertised objective analysis of 'wrong' justified through political opinion. After the fifth instance of this justification, I admittedly began to question the overarching arguments contained in the book. (I could care less about who you vote/d for; just don't put square peg into round hole to get the point across, ad nauseum.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Being Wrong: Adventures in the Margin of Error I Love a Broad Margin to My Life (Vintage International) The Water Margin: Outlaws of the Marsh: The Classic Chinese Novel (Tuttle Classics) Margin: Restoring Emotional, Physical, Financial, and Time Reserves to Overloaded Lives What's Wrong With My Plant? (And How Do I Fix It?): A Visual Guide to Easy Diagnosis and Organic Remedies (What's Wrong Series) What's Wrong With My Houseplant?: Save Your Indoor Plants With 100% Organic Solutions (What's Wrong Series) Everything Is Wrong with Me: A Memoir of an American Childhood Gone, Well, Wrong Is It Wrong to Try to Pick Up Girls in a Dungeon?, Vol. 4 - light novel (Is It Wrong to Pick Up Girls in a Dungeon?) Is It Wrong to Try to Pick Up Girls in a Dungeon?, Vol. 2 - light novel (Is It Wrong to Pick Up Girls in a Dungeon?) The Wrong Stuff: The Adventures and Misadventures of an 8th Air Force Aviator Cheated & Deafeated: Mistress Harley's How To Gambling Guide: Stop being a loser & start being less of a loser (Cheated & Defated Book 1) Stop Being the String Along: A Relationship Guide to Being THE ONE True Hallucinations: Being an Account of the Author's Extraordinary Adventures in the Devil's Paradise Pioneer life; or, Thirty Years a Hunter, Being Scenes and Adventures in the Life of Philip Tome (1854) MINECRAFT: DIARY OF A MINECRAFTER ADVENTURES: The Minecraft Nightmare (An Unofficial Minecraft Book For Kids) (Diary Of A Minecrafter Adventures Books) NEW ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (VOL.9) (New Adventures of Sherlock Holmes, Vol 9/Audio Cassette) Las aventuras de Tintin 4 / The Adventures of Tintin 4: Los Cigarros Del Faraon / Cigars of the Pharaoh (Las Aventuras De Tintin / the Adventures of Tintin) (Spanish Edition) Quantum Error Correction Fatal System Error: The Hunt for the New Crime Lords Who Are Bringing Down the Internet Strike It Rich with Pocket Change: Error Coins Bring Big Money

[Dmca](#)