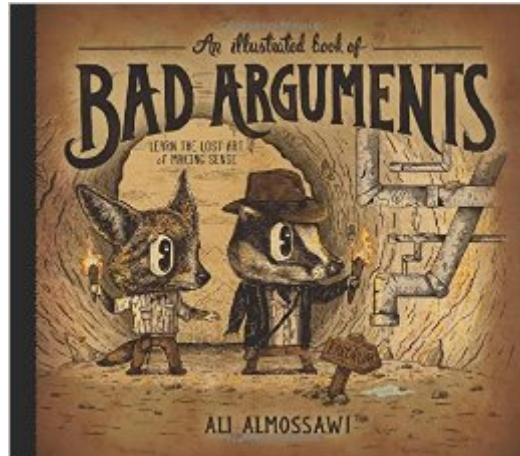


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An Illustrated Book Of Bad Arguments



Synopsis

• Alice Roberts, PhD, anatomist, writer, and presenter of The Incredible Human Journey
The antidote to fuzzy thinking, with furry animals!
Have you read (or stumbled into) one too many irrational online debates? Ali Almosawi certainly had, so he wrote An Illustrated Book of Bad Arguments! This handy guide is here to bring the internet age a much-needed dose of old-school logic (really old-school, a la Aristotle). Here are cogent explanations of the straw man fallacy, the slippery slope argument, the ad hominem attack, and other common attempts at reasoning that actually fall short—plus a beautifully drawn menagerie of animals who (adorably) commit every logical faux pas. Rabbit thinks a strange light in the sky must be a UFO because no one can prove otherwise (the appeal to ignorance). And Lion doesn't believe that gas emissions harm the planet because, if that were true, he wouldn't like the result (the argument from consequences). Once you learn to recognize these abuses of reason, they start to crop up everywhere from congressional debate to YouTube comments—which makes this geek-chic book a must for anyone in the habit of holding opinions.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A clever way to make dense and theoretical arguments about logic utterly accessible. I found myself reviewing a lifetime of arguments, and arguers, in my mind as I read this. I wrote down all of the types of bad arguments and will have fun categorizing future arguments accordingly.

I gave this as a gift to some friends for the holidays but managed to give it a thorough read before

wrapping it up, and I must say this is a must for every coffee table. This goes doubly so for houses that have children. Not only does it teach rhetorical skills and provide adroit methods of defusing fallacy, but it also teaches critical thinking skills, all with beautiful illustration. A must have for any thinking person!

Great book, beautifully bound and clear pictures. Good for all ages to learn the ideas of fallacies from. A good book to teach students with! Recommended if you are a teacher/person who likes to collect books on mental thought!

Who makes books like this anymore? This book is a very well made hard cover book with cloth covering. The illustrations excellent, and well printed. Ali has a great book here. I would recommend it highly as a gift for someone, possibly a pre-teen.

This book is irrefutably one-sided. Does that make it inaccurate? No. Is it inaccurate? Slightly. About seventy-five percent of the examples are or are reflective of bad arguments typically made by religious people. When done right this offers atheists a tool defense and helps people of faith to avoid making the same errors, but unfortunately Ali's zealotry if not his lack of clarity occasionally trumps his reason. The first fallacy Ali addresses is 'argument from consequences.' He uses this example, "If God does not exist, then everything is permitted." This may be argued as fallacious, however, not in the way that he indicates. He declares it fallacious because these consequences still say nothing as to whether or not God actually exists; it doesn't and that's his first mistake. Confusing? Well, allow me to do what Ali fails to and *clarify*. The example he used was an argument of morality- not God's existence. The argument he is attacking is "If God does not exist, then everything is permitted, thus He exists." He's attacking a hypothetical argument rather than the one at hand (see Straw Man). His poor wording implies that the argument in and of itself is fallacious. Though this is likely just a minor error of logos, it is terribly misleading for a Logic 101 book. His failure to differentiate a slippery slope argument from a slippery slope fallacy is also something to consider. Aside from all that he illustrates most of the fallacies quite well and the pictures are cute.

I am worried that my positive review will include a logical fallacy so I will be brief and deliberate. This book is awesome because it's awesome and I can tell it's awesome because of how awesome it is. This book is so awesome, that awesome should be redefined, as this book.

Very well put together, the illustrations are adorable (and very illustrative!) and overall it's a quick read that avoids being simplistic when explaining its subject matter. Minor errors in proofreading and perhaps organization aside, this book is a good introduction for adults. Children might find the illustrations useful but the language might not be readily understandable for children under 12 (and the occasional 15 year old.) Great opportunity to talk to your kid and discuss each argument as you both go along?

I just saw the book online and promptly tried to buy a hard copy on . It's utterly charming. The book belongs on everyone's shelf next to an early edition of Strunk & White.

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