

How to Bake Pi: An Edible Exploration of the Mathematics of Mathematics

Eugenia Cheng

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"Whimsical...rigorous and insightful."—New York Times Book Review

HOW TO BAKE π



An Edible Exploration
of the Mathematics
of Mathematics



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Eugenia Cheng : How to Bake Pi: An Edible Exploration of the Mathematics of Mathematics before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised How to Bake Pi: An Edible Exploration of the Mathematics of Mathematics:

66 of 67 people found the following review helpful. Everyone should read (eat) this book!By ThomasI can't believe

how good this book is for illuminating what mathematics is. I have spent most of the past forty-five years trying to find the words to communicate what Eugenia Cheng has so masterfully done in this book. Whenever I get a chance in the future to talk about mathematics I will steal her metaphors and examples. I will also be recommending the book to all of my colleagues in education as well as students. I could not stop reading and wondered if she could continue, chapter after chapter, to come up with examples to make her case. She succeeded right up to the end. I am a little sorry now that I did not pursue Category Theory with more diligence when I first encountered it in the 60s, but I may look into it again at this late date. 46 of 47 people found the following review helpful. How to Bake Pi is the same book as Cakes, Custard and Category Theory which puts them in a category of their own. By John Stewart I found this to be a terrific book and I wish I had been exposed to this while a student. It certainly makes mathematics much more comprehensible. On reading this book I've realized that my career in IT has been all about category theory. I would have given this book five stars, except that I recently purchased Cheng's recently released book, Cakes, Custard and Category Theory... which is this book with a different title. And why aren't the two titles cross referenced by using 's Formats and Editions feature? Just because the publishers are different, doesn't excuse this literal duplicity. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fun and interesting. By S. Morgan This is a wonderful book for people who love math. (It doesn't hurt to have an interest in baking as well.) Eugenia Cheng does an excellent job of talking about math in connection with baking. I knew nothing about category math, or her, before I started her book, but when I finished it, I felt like I had a basic introduction and an interest in reading more of what she's done and more about category math. The section at the end was particularly good; it was clear, passionate, persuasive, and engaging. This was one of the best books I've read so far this year.

"Whimsical...rigorous and insightful." -- New York Times Book Review

"What a charming and original book!... Light and tasty, yet so, so good for you, How to Bake Pi is a real treat." Steven Strogatz, author of *The Joy of x* "How to Bake Pi is a welcome addition to the popular-math shelf, unusual not only because of its quirky premise but also because Cheng is a woman, a lucid and nimble expositor, and unashamedly proud of her domestic obsessions." Alex Bellos, *New York Times Book Review* "Cheng takes something universally loved--food--and uses it to explain a similarly vast topic that's not quite as popularly embraced: math. She turns abstract concepts into accessible forms and lays out how mathematicians think, demystifying a field of beauty that is still too often viewed with fear and suspicion." *Publishers Weekly, Best Book of 2015* "A slyly illuminating dispatch on the deep meaning of mathematics.... [Cheng] compels us to see numbers and symbols as vivid characters in an ongoing drama, a narrative in which we are alternately observers and participants." Natalie Angier, *The American Scholar* "A funny and engaging new book." Simon Worrall, *National Geographic News* "Why go to all the trouble to write a book to help people understand mathematics? Because, as Cheng observes, 'understanding is power, and if you help someone understand something, you're giving them power.' Read *How to Bake pi* and you will, indeed, go away feeling empowered." Marc Merlin, *Medium* "Cheng is exceptional at translating the abstract concepts of mathematics into ordinary language, a strength aided by a writing style that showcases the workings of her curious, sometimes whimsical mind. This combination allows her to demystify how mathematicians think and work, and makes her love for mathematics contagious." *Publishers Weekly, starred review* "Often entertaining...frequently illuminating...[*How to Bake Pi*] offers enough nourishment for the brain to chew on for a long time." *Columbus Dispatch* About the Author Eugenia Cheng is tenured in the School of Mathematics and Statistics at the University of Sheffield. She is the Scientist in Residence at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, where she currently lives.