



Flatland: An Edition with Notes and Commentary (Spectrum)

By Edwin A. Abbott, William F. Lindgren, Thomas F. Banchoff

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Flatland, Edwin Abbott's story of a two-dimensional universe, as told by one of its inhabitants who is introduced to the mysteries of three-dimensional space, has enjoyed an enduring popularity from the time of its publication in 1884. This fully annotated edition enables the modern-day reader to understand and appreciate the many "dimensions" of this classic satire. Mathematical notes and illustrations enhance the usefulness of Flatland as an elementary introduction to higher-dimensional geometry. Historical notes show connections to late-Victorian England and to classical Greece. Citations from Abbott's other writings as well as the works of Plato and Aristotle serve to interpret the text. Commentary on language and literary style includes numerous definitions of obscure words. An appendix gives a comprehensive account of the life and work of Flatland's remarkable author.

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Editorial Review

Review

"It is all good fun, and the authors point out much that we readers would probably otherwise miss.... This annotated version of Flatland is clearly designed to be enjoyed by a very wide audience. ... Readers of this edition will become more familiar with Edwin A. Abbott the person. The multitude of notes explaining, among other things, Abbott's wordplay, his grasp of classical Greek culture, and his critical views of Victorian society makes us almost feel like we are having a conversation with him.... I highly recommend this edition. Abbott's story can be enjoyed by those with a taste for any combination of mathematics, linguistics, social commentary, history, philosophy, religion, and faith. Lindgren and Banchoff's notes and commentary deepen the enjoyment of these many dimensions of Abbott's creation."

David A. Huckaby, MAA Reviews

"There (have been) lots of new editions (of Flatland) and further interpretations of the original. But the book presented here is something totally new. ... The book can be highly recommended, it is a must for all admirers of Flatland."

Karin Reich, Zentralblatt MATH

"Flatland should be in every mathematics collection, and this is the definitive edition. Outstanding Academic Title."

C. A. Gorini, Maharishi University of Management, Choice Magazine

"With their informative notes, Banchoff and Lindgren add immeasurably to the text. In addition to explanations of arcane terminology and of the mathematics involved, they provide the background necessary to understand the book in the context of Victorian England. It is a period during which entrenched ideas, both social and scientific, were undergoing dramatic metamorphosis. Banchoff and Lindgren's comments on Abbott and his milieu allow the reader to comprehend this fascinating turning point in history. ... The plethora of fascinating background information and detail will make you appreciate the book at a much deeper level."

American Scientist

About the Author

William F. Lindgren is a Professor of Mathematics at Slippery Rock University. He is the author of Quasi-Uniform Spaces (1982) with Peter Fletcher and has given many talks about Flatland at various conferences, including the Joint Meetings of the AMS/MAA.

Thomas F. Banchoff is a Professor of Mathematics at Brown University. He is the author of Beyond the Third Dimension and Linear Algebra Through Geometry (with John Wermer) and the editor of a reprint of Henry P. Manning's The Fourth Dimension Simply Explained.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jonathan Scott:

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Kari Annis:

Reading a e-book tends to be new life style in this particular era globalization. With studying you can get a lot of information that can give you benefit in your life. With book everyone in this world can certainly share their idea. Ebooks can also inspire a lot of people. Lots of author can inspire their particular reader with their story or perhaps their experience. Not only the story that share in the publications. But also they write about the information about something that you need example of this. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your kids, there are many kinds of book that exist now. The authors on earth always try to improve their proficiency in writing, they also doing some research before they write on their book. One of them is this Flatland: An Edition with Notes and Commentary (Spectrum).

David Gilbert:

Precisely why? Because this Flatland: An Edition with Notes and Commentary (Spectrum) is an unordinary book that the inside of the reserve waiting for you to snap this but latter it will jolt you with the secret it inside. Reading this book alongside it was fantastic author who else write the book in such awesome way makes the content inside easier to understand, entertaining approach but still convey the meaning completely. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this any more or you going to regret it. This excellent book will give you a lot of advantages than the other book possess such as help improving your talent and your critical thinking way. So , still want to hold up having that book? If I were you I will go to the publication store hurriedly.

Mildred Timm:

Would you one of the book lovers? If yes, do you ever feeling doubt when you find yourself in the book store? Try and pick one book that you find out the inside because don't judge book by its protect may doesn't work at this point is difficult job because you are afraid that the inside maybe not since fantastic as in the outside search likes. Maybe you answer could be Flatland: An Edition with Notes and Commentary (Spectrum) why because the great cover that make you consider with regards to the content will not disappoint anyone. The inside or content is fantastic as the outside as well as cover. Your reading 6th sense will directly make suggestions to pick up this book.

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