



Introducing Chaos: A Graphic Guide

Ziauddin Sardar , Iwona Abrams

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Introducing Chaos explains how chaos makes its presence felt in many varieties of event, from the fluctuation of animal populations to the ups and downs of the stock market. It also examines the roots of chaos in modern mathematics and physics, and explores the relationship between chaos and complexity, the new unifying theory which suggests that all complex systems evolve from a few simple rules.

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From Reader Review Introducing Chaos: A Graphic Guide for online ebook

Amna Mahder Bashi says

Chaos theory and the relevant physics behind it, presented in an engaging style. I certainly wasn't expecting any mention of consciousness, computers or AI in relation to chaos and order; how fascinating!

Khalid Almoghrabi says

truly amazing theory that will make your mind boggles :). i found the book quite interesting yet some parts, especially the physics and maths parts, are difficult to digest. the drawing can be better as well but still a good book to read about the subject of chaos theory.

Joseph Harriott says

marvellous. Blew apart my cosy enlightenment style fantasy that science has the whole picture. With increased computational abilities came an ability to look at the disordered scientifically, and to discover patterns there too. What's astonishing is that chaotic systems are the norm, so getting to grips with them is necessary for our understanding of our universe to move forward.

Matt says

I have little experience with narcotics, so I don't know if so-called "gateway drugs" are by their very nature supposed to be unsatisfying, leading the disappointed user by dint of this deficiency to seek out "the hard stuff," but it seems to me like the "Introducing..." series is just such a "gateway drug" for information junkies. I should have known by the title that the book wouldn't go in-depth on the subject (or any of the subjects that it covers) but it doesn't make any of the main points clear, either. I'll give it credit, though, for the disappointment that led me to a much better, more readable, more informative book on Chaos. Hooray!

Madhumita Bharde says

Let's face it - Gleick's 'Chaos', although a phenomenal masterpiece, is a daunting read. And I am always all for books "scratching the surface"; but IMO, this book doesn't do a very good job of inviting the reader to "dig" more on the topic. Would have given it 3 stars if the repetitive and completely unnecessary fractal brain graphic were avoided. It's gross - not sure if and when I would be able to have cauliflower back in my diet.

Eszter says

This is a book for amateurs interested in what makes the world go round in terms of physical circumstances. While giving a step by step, no-nonsense explanation driven through a thread leading to more and more insight, it never made me feel it was either too much or too little - or rather that I was any of those. Actually, it was exciting.

Probably the objective of the book could be most appropriately summarized by saying that it lets you go beyond what up till now has been perceived only within the constraints that science had filtered out from the rich diversity of our world. That is to say, science used to make its life be comfortable enough in order to be able to observe the world around us with all what we used to have. By doing so, some statistically irrelevant details were dismissed in exchange for focusing on relevant ones. Today, when we have computers of nearly endless capabilities, we are allowed to observe seemingly irrelevant things, too. And that is when we understand that there are phenomena that could probably never be explained, let alone forecast. As if nature said: here you stop.

Chaos is the knowledge about not knowing. That, in turn, is knowledge and we can get better in it.

This is a little book with lots in it. The content is enhanced and made friendly by the cheerful illustrations which make it all even more attractive. Recommended to the curious.

Essam Munir says

As an introduction to chaos theory, I guess this is a good book, although it is easy to forget most of the ideas in it, so it needs to be read again.

There are a lot of definitions which make it easier to be read.

Irtaza Hussain says

To a layman like myself who is trying to make sense of it all, the guide introduced me to a lot of things and that's all I wanted so the book gets a good rating from me just because it was cheap and gave me direction.

Jagrut Gadit says

Non-periodic oscillations = nonlinear feedback = unstable equilibrium = positive feedback = fractals = aperiodic dynamics = Non-deterministic systems = sensitivity to initial conditions = strange attractors = nonlinear phase-space = butterfly effect = turbulence = period doubling = bifurcations = self-organization = Non-irreversibility = Breakdown of second law of thermodynamics = universe = quantum mechanics = Law of increasing returns = period three = complexity = adaptive systems = emergent systems ==.....=
Chaos = ????

Even though I am fairly familiar with most of the above mentioned concepts I could hardly make sense of what actually is chaos theory. The book is a real chaos! Maybe the author intends to give a demo! Not worth at all for a lay person.

However, the information given is great, intriguing and captivating, a truly good introduction to Chaos. The only cons are the cons every "introduction" book has, very shallow information in a lot of parts, but that's intended for the audience it targets, however, I personally enjoy more in depth books.

Good read overall.

Bill Kerwin says

This is a short, illustrated (with cartoons!) introduction to Chaos Theory. Being a math-challenged poet type, I understood just enough of this to inspire me with wonder and to add a few strangely attractive words to my vocabulary--like "strange attractor," for instance.
