Mathematical Bafflers (Dover Recreational Math)

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From Dover Publications : Mathematical Bafflers (Dover Recreational Math) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Mathematical Bafflers (Dover Recreational Math):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. OkayBy Jacquelyn JohnsonIt's okay.0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. new reviewBy Akehiko TakahashiI ordered two companion books by Angela Dunn. I

simply made a mistake by stating that I received the book with spine bent and torn. It was not this book. It was the second book of Mathematical Bafflers sent by another seller. I changed the rating to 5 stars.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good fun.By Mr. Math ExpertIt's not bad of a book. Many are well-thought out, and there are lots of creative pictures. The problems are challenging but not too challenging for anyone who is mathematically mature. There are solutions to every problem, but my complaint is that some of the solutions are not well-explained. Either I get it or don't, the "don't" part is where I have to forget about the problem as "trivial" and move on. There are not that many of them thou. A few problems posed in the book are pretty bad such as the age problem in page 18. That age problem on pg. 18 could have been solved much easier had the problem be rephrased (or maybe more insight in the solution page). Another problem on pg. 20 can be solved by ordinary physics formula of Newton's Law with s = (.5)at^2. After I solved the problem and checked the solution, I was surprised the author didn't take the route that I took. Of course, my way is lengthy but correct. That brings up another complaint: try to be multidimensional when offering solutions like how the author was when in Four Fours (which was extremely nice and very friendly). Anyhow, it's a good book at a very cheap price.

Let the puzzlist beware: Mathematical Bafflers will disappoint those seeking the simple, straightforward, drudge-rewarding problem: it will delight those who have despaired of a truly challenging collection of mind-teasers. Beginners are advised to look elsewhere the 158 conundrums offered here were designed by experts for experts and many experts were, simply, baffled.Mathematical Bafflers gathers the prime problems from twelve years of the esteemed weekly Problematical Recreations which appeared in Aviation Week and Electronic News periodicals read by mathematicians, engineers, computer programmers, and over the years, by serious puzzlists who heard about the special section. To keep the quality at a peak, Angela Dunn and a team of mathematicians invented their own puzzles and gleaned the best submissions from an enormous reader response. Criteria were conceptual originality, ingenuity of approach, elegance of solution, with preference given to the kind of puzzle more vulnerable to a flash of inspiration than mere persistence. Categories include algebra, geometry, diophantine equations, logic and deduction, probability, insight, and number theory. Each chapter provides solutions to all problems plus a selection of correspondence with readers containing complaints, pleas, commentary, and further speculation. Original woodcut illustrations add to the charm.Advanced mathematical skills are only sporadically required the majority of problems are accessible to anyone wanting the challenge. Those mentally fit enough to find 1,000 consecutive nonprime numbers (page 164) or discover on what days of the week the first day of a new century can fall (page 210), apply within; all others enjoy the bafflement anyway.

From the Back CoverLet the puzzlist beware: Mathematical Bafflers will disappoint those seeking the simple, straightforward, drudge-rewarding problem: it will delight those who have despaired of a truly challenging collection of mind-teasers. Beginners are advised to look elsewherethe 158 conundrums offered here were designed by experts for expertsand many experts were, simply, baffled.Mathematical Bafflers gathers the prime problems fromtwelve years of the esteemed weekly Problematical Recreations which appeared in Aviation Week and Electronic Newsperiodicals read by mathematicians, engineers, computer programmers, and over the years, by serious puzzlists who heard about the special section. To keep the quality at a peak, Angela Dunn and a team of mathematicians invented their own puzzles and gleaned the best submissions from an enormous reader response. Criteria were conceptual originality, ingenuity of approach, elegance of solution, with preference given to the kind of puzzle more vulnerable to a flash of inspiration than mere persistence. Categories include algebra, geometry, diophantine equations, logic and deduction, probability, insight, and number theory. Each chapter provides solutions to all problems plus a selection of correspondence with readers containing complaints, pleas, commentary, and further speculation. Original woodcut illustrations add to the charm.Advanced mathematical skills are only sporadically requiredthe majority of problems are accessible to anyone wanting the challenge. Those mentally fit enough to find 1,000 consecutive nonprime numbers (page 164) or discover on what days of the week the first day of a new century can fall (page 210), apply within; all others enjoy the bafflement anyway.Unabridged, corrected 1980 republication of the work first published by McGraw-Hill Book Company, New York, 1964.