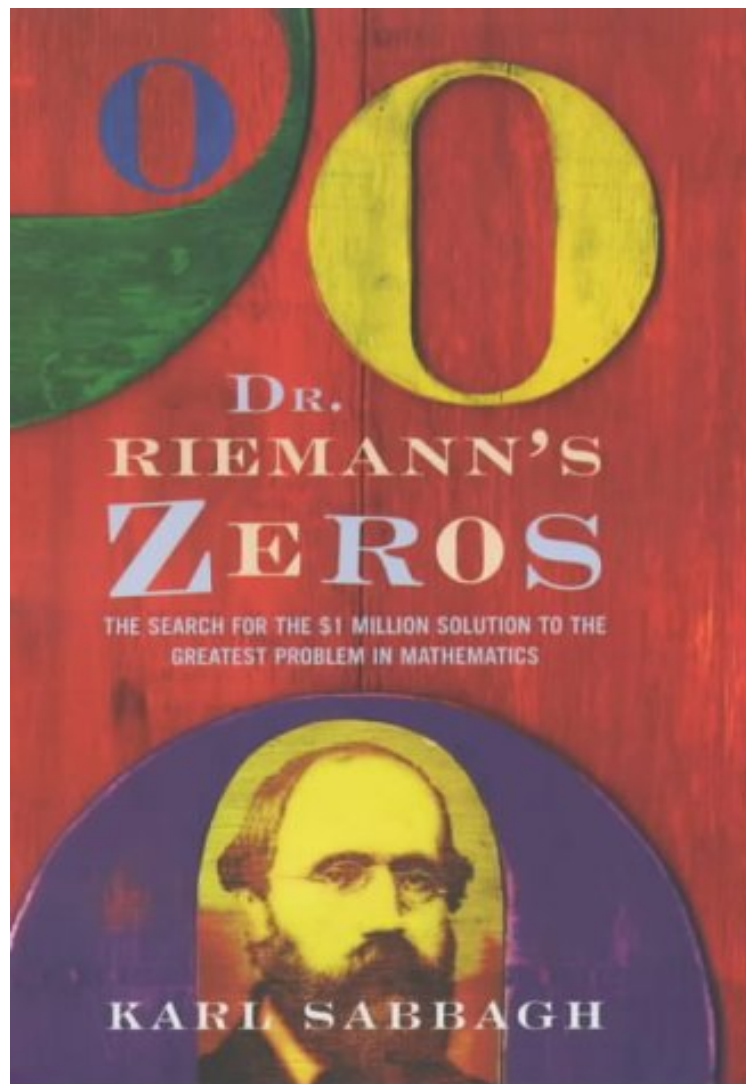


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Dr Riemann's Zeroes: The Search for the \$1 Million Solution to the Greatest Problem in Mathematics

Karl Sabbagh

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Karl Sabbagh : Dr Riemann's Zeroes: The Search for the \$1 Million Solution to the Greatest Problem in Mathematics before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Dr Riemann's Zeroes: The Search for the \$1 Million Solution to the Greatest Problem in Mathematics:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The search for a solution to one of greatest problems in mathematics By John Gale A not-easy-to-understand subject well explained, along with why it's important. I

particularly liked the historical background. The six mathematical toolkits provided as an appendix will be really helpful to those who need to revise mathematical terminology, symbols and methods. An economical hardback published in 2002 which is very readable and thought-provoking at the same time..1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Quite an interesting read but with strange errorBy desiderataWorthwhile reading that I slightly preferred to Marcus deSauty's book (Music of the Primes), but nowhere near a good as John Derbyshire's "Prime Obsession". Fascinating to see the extraordinary Ramanujan partition formula but only a few pages later on p.69 Sabbagh exhibits an exponential equation in x that he quotes G.H. Hardy as saying has a solution between 63 67, which is easily seen to be completely wrong !It is hard to imagine Hardy making such an error so I assume Sabbagh has mis-transcribed something, but I haven't been able to trace the origin of the equation to check it elsewhere.[The actual solution to the equation as it is printed is $x=0.100524$ to 6 decimal places.]2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. a nice appetizerBy Hugo CoolensOn the cover of the book Ian Stewart writes: 'a pleasurable and painless read for anyone intrigued by numbers', this is indeed true. It means it is well written, the author has done his homework and his writing style is quite enjoyable. But don't expect how to calculate yourself the zeros of the zeta function neither to get the necessary background in higher maths (the appendices are mostly elementary maths except De Brange's "proof"). The author modestly admits himself his knowledge of maths is not sufficient.Is this a bad book? Not at all, I think you can compare it with "The music of the primes" by Marcus du Sauty and I prefer the style of Karl Sabbagh rather than the pompous "I'm so clever" Marcus du Sauty-style.To conclude: a nice appetizer but don't expect the real mealp.s.There are also some minor errors e.g. on page 20 line 6, the author mentions 99 sums but he means 99 products, there is also a weird repetition of text on p.78.

Since its inception by Bernard Riemann in 1859, every pure mathematician has longed for a proof for the Riemann hypothesis. So great is the interest in its solution that in 2001, an American foundation put up prize money of US\$1 million to the first person to demonstrate that the hypothesis is correct. Riemann's hypothesis seeks to explain where every single prime number to infinity will occur. It is a mind-bending problem that encapsulates a profound mystery at the heart of our counting system, one that mathematicians speak about in awed terms. This book makes even the airiest peaks of maths accessible. The author uses anecdotes, history and jokes and makes vivid characters out of the eccentric figures racing to solve the problem.

About the AuthorKARL SABBAGH is a writer and television producer.