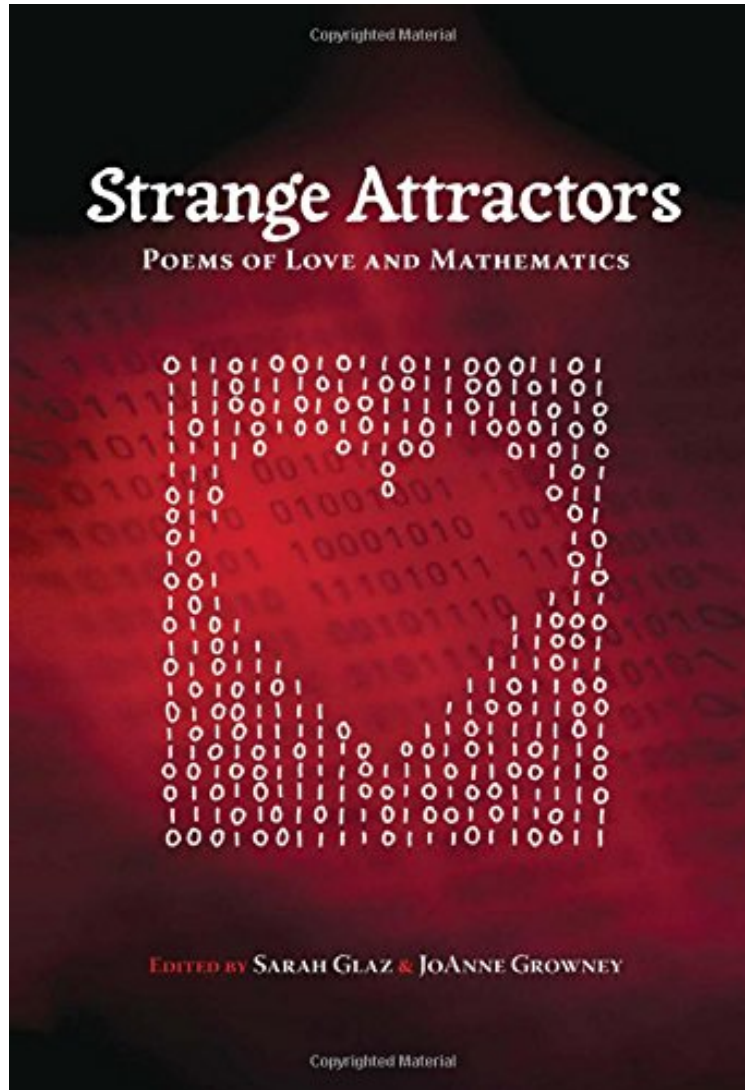


Strange Attractors: Poems of Love and Mathematics

From Brand: A K Peters/CRC Press

**Download PDF | ePub | DOC | audiobook | ebooks*



#1565669 in Books A K Peters/CRC Press 2008-10-27Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.02 x .69 x 5.981, 1.05 #File Name: 1568813414250 pages | File size: 17.Mb

From Brand: A K Peters/CRC Press : Strange Attractors: Poems of Love and Mathematics before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Strange Attractors: Poems of Love and Mathematics:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. "Strange Attractors" = Math + LoveBy Thomas JenningsA friend of mine, with similar interests, wrote this review--worthy of sharing:A new book, edited by a pair of college math professors, offers "poems of love and mathematics" that provide enjoyable reading to those of us more familiar with verse than with Venn diagrams.Even though the kind nuns made me memorize the multiplication tables, I later became

gagged by geometry, confused by chaos theory, and flummoxed by Fibonacci sums. Higher math, and its lesser cousins, never made sense, so I found an easy chair and a pile of poetry books that I used to fend off calculus, statistics, and other mysterious studies. To my surprise, this anthology demonstrates that fans of math can also have fun with words. John McClellan wrote: "A lady of 80 named Gertie/ Had a boyfriend of 60 named Bertie./ She told him emphatically/ That viewed mathematically/ By modulo 50 she's 30." The poet was a lithographer with an interest in "recreational math," according to the useful Contributor's Notes. Poems can also offer music to the ears. Sarah Glaz, co-editor, reports on "Late Afternoon in the Workshop on Commutative Rings" about being "Inebriated in Pienza and Montepulciano/Cortona Firenze and San Gimignano." Read it aloud and hear for yourself! Other poems in this varied collection treat more serious subjects. In "My Dance is Mathematics," JoAnne Grownney, co-editor, observes that "If a woman's dance is mathematics,/ She dances alone." Rather than reading alone, owners of this book are likely to share discoveries ranging from King Solomon to Shel Silverstein, from Catullus to Lewis Carroll, and from Dante to Rita Dove. Curious students will also find short biographical sketches of the mathematicians mentioned in the poems. Many readers might dance alone, delighted at the variety, and grateful to the thoughtful and thorough editors. Thanks, Denny!

10 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Challenging the Line between Profession and Avocation By V. Schwarcz It is rare to have two highly trained, professional mathematicians follow their passion for poetry so skilfully. Glaz Grownney challenge the line between profession and avocation by weaving together some of the finest poems you will ever read that also play with mathematics, educate you to see numbers, lines, infinities in fresh light. Here you have Andrew Marvell paint lovers into a cramped "planisphere" and let them loose again as parallel lines never to meet... And Jakob Bernoulli (well translated from Latin) making a concise argument for how "the finite encloses an infinite series" allowing readers to see also how the soul dwells in minutia... And Ray Bobo's utterly playful "Give Me an Epsilon and I will Treat it Well." Assembled with professional knowledge and seasoned passion, this volume is a must for all lovers of poetry and math.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Wonderful anthology! By claudine I am not a mathematician nor a poet but I loved this book. It combines whimsy, funny poems with others that are more 'serious' or romantic. I enjoyed comparing poems written centuries ago with contemporary ones. My favorite poems are 'God Loves a Curve' by Edward Chipman, 'Love Story' by Sarah Glaz and 'A Lady of 80' by John McClellan. The anthology is well organized by love categories and the index is easy to use. The Contributors' Notes also provide useful information on each of the poet included. I recommend this book to all lovers of poetry with a mathematical bent for the sensitivity and humor of the work chosen by the editors.

Strange Attractors is a collection of approximately 150 poems with strong links to mathematics in content, form, or imagery. The common theme is love, and the editors draw from its various manifestations: romantic love, spiritual love, humorous love, love between parents and children, mathematicians in love, love of mathematics. The poets include literary masters as well as celebrated mathematicians and scientists. "What, after all, is mathematics but the poetry of the mind, and what is poetry but the mathematics of the heart?" So wrote the American mathematician and educator David Eugene Smith. In a similar vein, the German mathematician Karl Weierstrass declared, "A mathematician who is not at the same time something of a poet will never be a full mathematician." Most mathematicians will know what they meant. But what do professional poets think of mathematics? In this delightful collection, the editors present the view of the same terrain: the connections between mathematics and poetry from the other side of the equation: the poets. Now is your chance to see if the equation balances. Keith Devlin, mathematician, Stanford University, and author of *The Math Gene*, *The Math Instinct*, and *The Language of Mathematics*

As the song states, Love is a many-splendored thing. In this book, mathematics is splended in many ways that demonstrate the breadth and depth of interest and joy that it presents to those who love it. Charles Ashbacher, *Journal of Recreational Mathematics*, April 2010 I recently acquired the book *Strange Attractors: Poems of Love and Mathematics*. Im crazy about the poems in it. JacketFlap.com, *The Miss Rumphius Effect* blog, April 2010 What a delightful collection! The reader does not need to know who Mandelbrot was, or how Venn diagrams work, or even the value of pi. She just has to understand that there is, at heart, a strong connection between math and poetry, and allow herself the pleasure of discovering how the two come together in these works. Wendy Galgan, *Assisi Online Journal*, April 2010 The editors did do a great job on the extras. I appreciate how they contextualized the book, offering a list of related books on mathematical poetry. And I frequently found myself consulting the author bios and publication information. If you are a mathematician who likes poetry, you are going to have a good time with this book. There's some spectacular poetry here, and some actual math. Its worth the dig. *The College Math Journal*, December 2009 The strength of this anthology is that it looks at what both poets and mathematicians build with each others tools. Sarah Glaz and JoAnne Grownney have put together an anthology that readers with interests in either camp will enjoy and want to share. *Poets Quarterly*, October 2009 Among the delights of this book, in addition to the poetry, are a substantive introduction, bibliographical resources, information about the poet-contributors, and about the mathematicians who are named in poems. Mathematicians and poetry lovers (with at least some feeling for math) will enjoy the many treasures in this anthology. *Intelligencer*, October 2009 How do I love this book? Let me count the

ways The intersection of mathematics and the arts is nonempty and this volume masterfully describes the contents of that intersection. The authors have included notes about the contributors and information about the mathematicians who are mentioned. This latter feature makes the book even more appealing to a wider audience. This wonderful volume could be used in a number of ways supplemental reading in a history of mathematics course, reading in a poetry or literature course. Or just read it for fun. MAA s, August 2009 there are a priori grounds for thinking of poetry and mathematics together, as two rarefied forms of symbolic activity based on the power of the human mind to detect hidden analogies. In other words, an anthology like *Strange Attractors*, which brings together a hundred and fifty poems with some degree of mathematical content, makes more a priori sense than, say, a collection of famous speeches with some mathematical content. There are no duds among the poems J.M. Coetzee, *Notices of the American Mathematical Society*, August 2009 These poems articulate clearly and poetically thoughts and emotions informed by arithmetic. The attentive reader also learns some math. I had never really understood the concept of the asymptote until reading Elizabeth Anne Socolows *Asymptote* That is to say, I might have understood the concept intellectually, but not with any feeling. Now, I get it, not just in my head, but also in my gut. And I know from my colleagues in the math department who speak with such passion about their work, that it cannot be only mental. The editors of this collection have gathered an astonishing plethora of poems from Dante through Shakespeare to Carl Sandburg and Shel Silverstein that draw upon the metaphorical richnesses of math to make their poems sing. Poetry and math, we discover, are not antithetical, as we might have supposed, rather there is a great deal of commerce between them. This collection is satisfying, provocative and robust. Fredrick Smock, *Journal of Mathematics and the Arts*, June 2009 Explorations of connections between mathematics and poetry recently brought two poets to the MAAs Carriage House Conference Center for an evening of readings. Many selections came from the anthology *Strange Attractors: Poems of Love and Mathematics*. The surprising interweavings of poetry and mathematics made for a delightful evening. MAA Online, April 2009 Listen to the event Mathematics and love coupled in professors book of poetry: Mathematics is much like art, Glaz says: I love to teach and I love doing research in mathematics. I think that proving a theorem and writing a poem come from the same place. UConn Advance, April 2009 Love and arithmetic. Well over one hundred poems, both past, classic, and contemporary, discuss these two subjects and how they have more in common than one would think. *Strange Attractors* is a fresh and original book of poetry, highly recommended. Library Bookwatch, March 2009 This international collection can be recommended to every reader who loves poetry and mathematics and who wants to explore the way that mathematical ideas inhabit poetry. EMS Newsletter, March 2009 The combination of maths and love poetry might seem an odd mix. Despite loving maths myself, I was a little skeptical when I picked up this book . I had no idea there would be so many poems suitable for such a collection, or that it would span so many centuries and include so many diverse contributors not only can [this book] show people who are looking for poems to express love, the beauty of the language of maths, but it also might help explain some of the deep emotions mathematicians feel for their subject. Plus magazine, February 2009 It is a marvelous, lovely book. Zentralblatt MATH, February 2009 It would seem a tall order to be asked to compile a substantial collection of poems of love and mathematics. However this challenge has been successfully taken up by Sarah Glaz and JoAnne Growney. The London Mathematical Society, February 2009 My Best Books of the Year 2008 This book is a collection of poetry by everyone from the masters to people aspiring to be one. It is good for the soul. Charles Ashbacher, *Journal of Object Technology*, January 2009 What a wonderful collection *Strange Attractors* is, offering readersthe ones who know mathematics is a form of poetry and the ones who donta place to find, as Emily Dickinson says, what eludes the finding out. Robert Hass, author of *Time and Materials*, December 2008 About the Author Sarah Glaz is a professor of mathematics at the University of Connecticut and author of *Commutative Coherent Rings* and other books and articles in commutative algebra. She has had a lifelong interest in poetry, having served on the editorial board of *Ibis* , a literary magazine, and published several of her poems and translations in periodicals. JoAnne Growney was a professor of mathematics at Bloomsburg University in Pennsylvania for a number of years. During this time, she began to write and collect poetry with mathematical themes or structures. She now lives in Silver Spring, Maryland, where she continues her writing and is involved in DC-area poetry activities. You can read her growing math-poetry collection at <http://joannegrowney.com>