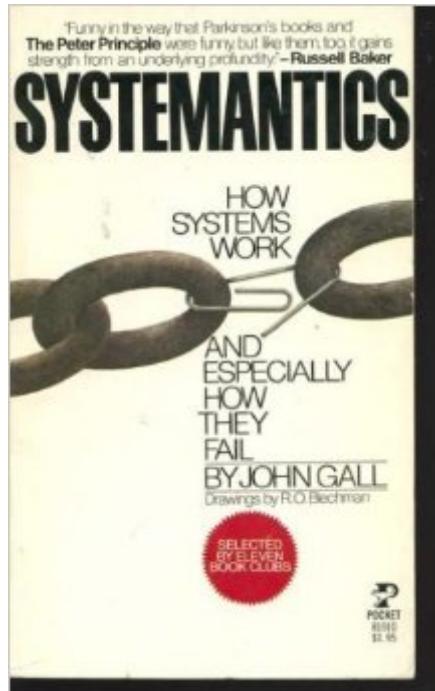


The book was found

Systemantics: How Systems Work And Especially How They Fail



Synopsis

Systemantics: How Systems Work and Especially How They Fail

Book Information

Paperback

Publisher: Pocket; 1st edition (May 1, 1978)

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (19 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

Things are not working, that much we agree about. For me, these 'things' are mostly software systems which drive me closer to the edge of insanity the more I work with them, and for the author of this book it's mostly human organizations. The arguments of the book are supposed to apply to all systems, so we can ignore this minor difference. Who or what is to blame for this state of affairs? Or even better, how can we navigate it? The culprit, according to the author, is the systems that we see everywhere, enjoined and entangled, permeating our lives, and pulling us in all directions. The solution proposed by the author is to be suspicious of systems, and know their tricky ways ("We must learn to live with systems, to control them lest they control us", p. xiii). An extensive definition of a system is not attempted by the author, rather wisely, because this gives the reader the drive to look for systems in their own life. There is one roundabout way of defining systems towards the end of the book which I found rather enlightening, however: "The system represents someone's solution to a problem. It does not solve the problem" (p. 74). More than systems per se, the author targets what he calls systemism, the vacuous belief in the fundamental usefulness of systems, and the book aims to cast it out of the reader by succinct statements of the flaws of systems. The book is written in a tongue-in-cheek style. The author makes claims of systematicity, and orders his argument in axioms that should somehow lead up to a consistent theory, but that's not really the case. This doesn't mean that the book is inconsistent, however.

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Systemantics: How Systems Work and Especially How They Fail A Tear And A Smile: "If you love somebody, let them go, for if they return, they were always yours. If they don't, they never were." Belly Fat Gone!: Surgical options for removal of lower belly fat & stretched skin when diets & exercise fail (When Diets and Exercise Fail Book 1) The Big Book of Real Helicopters "How They Work * What They Do * Where They Fly" (Big Treasure Books) Understanding Girls with ADHD, Updated and Revised: How They Feel and Why They Do What They Do The 100 Best Business Books of All Time: What They Say, Why They Matter, and How They Can Help You Defeating ISIS: Who They Are, How They Fight, What They Believe Reincarnation and Karma: Why They Make Sense and How They Work The Slot Machine Answer Book: How They Work, How They've Changed, and How to Overcome the House Advantage The Diet Fix: Why Diets Fail and How to Make Yours Work Letters From The West Indies: Relating Especially To The Danish Island St. Croix, And To The British Islands Antigua, Barbadoes, And Jamaica Very Easy 3D Modeling Workbook: Especially 3D printing for beginners & teachers Bread Machine Magic: 139 Exciting New Recipes Created Especially for Use in All Types of Bread Machines Bread Machine Magic: 138 Exciting Recipes Created Especially for Use in All Types of Bread Machines EROTICA: HUNGER FOR HEAVYWEIGHTS (BBW BBC short hot story) MADE FOR ALL Especially THE BIG ONES (LUST FOR SEXY THICK WOMEN) Lottery Winning Systems: And Why They Don't Work Never Let a Fool Kiss You or a Kiss Fool You : Chiasmus and a World of Quotations That Say What They Mean and Mean What They Say Jeff Herman's Guide to Book Publishers, Editors and Literary Agents: Who They Are, What They Want, How to Win Them Over (Jeff Herman's Guide to Book Editors, Publishers, and Literary Agents) Work Systems: The Methods, Measurement & Management of Work They Wished They Were Honest: The Knapp Commission and New York City Police Corruption

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