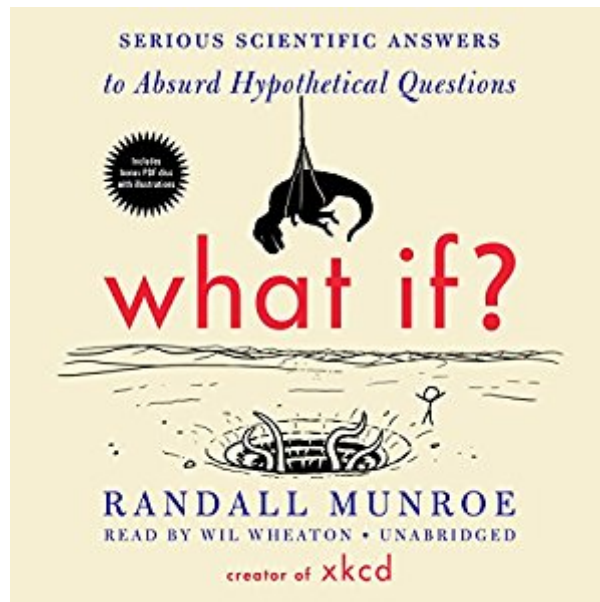


The book was found

# What If?: Serious Scientific Answers To Absurd Hypothetical Questions



## Synopsis

From the creator of the wildly popular webcomic xkcd comes this hilarious and informative book of answers to important questions you probably never thought to ask. Millions of people visit xkcd.com each week to read Randall Munroe's iconic webcomic. His stick-figure drawings about science, technology, language, and love have a large and passionate following. Fans of xkcd ask Munroe a lot of strange questions. What if you tried to hit a baseball pitched at 90 percent of the speed of light? How fast can you hit a speed bump while driving and live? If there were a robot apocalypse, how long would humanity last? In pursuit of answers, Munroe runs computer simulations, pores over stacks of declassified military research memos, solves differential equations, and consults with nuclear reactor operators. His responses are masterpieces of clarity and hilarity, complemented by signature xkcd comics. They often predict the complete annihilation of humankind, or at least a really big explosion. The book features new and never-before-answered questions, along with updated and expanded versions of the most popular answers from the xkcd website. What If? will be required listening for xkcd fans and anyone who loves to ponder the hypothetical.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 6 hours and 36 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Blackstone Audio, Inc.

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Language: English

ASIN: B00LV2F1ZA

Best Sellers Rank: #7 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Science > Physics #11 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Puzzles & Games > Trivia #37 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Humor

## Customer Reviews

At first it might seem dismissive and reductive to call anything "a bathroom book", or a "waiting room" book, (when was the last time you saw a book in a waiting room, anyway?) but unfortunately, this is the appellation under which most "factoid" (or light humor) books must labor. However, were you to relegate this amazing book to your WC, despite the number of flushes you hear in a day, there would always be a line. In the case of "What If", this tragic location it is a far cry from what is

deserved by the quality of writing, the subject and sense of humor herein. While obviously not having narrative, story or continuity, it has a greater consistency than could be called a topic-humor. OK, two. Humor and patience. Three: Humor, patience, and some amazing research. A disclaimer from Randall Munroe: "I am a guy who draws pictures on the Internet. I like it when things catch fire and explode, which means I do not have your best interests in mind." I was instantly hooked. Further: For the question that warrants a different sort of answer- "What happens if you set off a nuclear bomb in the center of a hurricane? Would the storm cell be vaporized?" Munroe has only to quote NOAA as they reply, "Needless to say, this is not a good idea." Unsurprisingly, he cites their entire article. In fact, the text is followed by a goodly section of references. There is no doubt he went the distance on these questions, and did so with a mind to give the most accurate, honest and flat out funny answer possible, in some cases going way further over the top than the original question requires. These are the truly great ones.

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