



Maze: Solve the World's Most Challenging Puzzle

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This is not really a book. This is a building in the shape of a book...a maze. Each numbered page depicts a room in the maze. Tempted? Test your wits against mine. I guarantee that my maze will challenge you to think in ways you've never thought before. But beware. One wrong turn and you may never escape!

Maze: Solve the World's Most Challenging Puzzle Details

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From Reader Review Maze: Solve the World's Most Challenging Puzzle for online ebook

Patty says

My 12-year old and I struggled to solve this book. My 17-year old solved it, but used strategies other than just reading the book and trying to find clues. Challenging---definitely not a kid's book!

Christian Petrie says

As a kid I remember reading this and thought it was interesting. I don't recall solving it. Years later my son picks this book up, and I give it a try. I still can't solve.

Maze is similar to a Choose Your Own Adventure book. You select which room and try to get to the middle of the maze and back. It is harder than it seems. There are probably ways to cheat and solve this, especially with the Internet these days.

I can see this book entertaining kids for a while, but then getting them frustrated. A nice puzzle book to read now and then. Give it a try, but just remember it is hard.

Hip E. says

There is a 100% chance that this book is better than "House of Leaves."

Nate D says

A strange picture-book labyrinth with eerily cross-hatch-shadowed rooms leading into other empty rooms leading into still others, like an interactive version of Edward Gorey's *The West Wing*, perhaps. Not a book of mazes, but a maze that is a book, and seemingly far trickier in all senses than any seeming children's book should be. I'm becoming convinced that the entirety needs to be decoded before the "path" will reveal itself. Found via a reference in the *Believer* that instantly pricked my latent fascination with mazes.

(totally stumped after a complete mapping of all accessible doorways, groping for sliding panels via the cryptic texts)

Douglas Beagley says

Great art, great puzzles, multiple levels of difficulty! This is a landmark puzzle book that succeeds on so many levels. You can enjoy it as a ten-year-old, you can try to wring the last bit of truth out of it as a 40-year-old.

Laurel says

I am so terrible at these types of puzzles - but I enjoy playing with it, looking at the intricate sorts of illustrations and riddle clues.. and then eventually looking up a walkthrough on the internet to show me how it is actually supposed to be solved.

I do recommend keeping a copy around because it is neat.

Seth says

It isn't the world's most challenging puzzle.
It isn't a very hard maze.

But even knowing the way to the center and back, I love to travel through this book, wandering from room to room looking at the scenery and enjoying the sense of space, the changing light, and the wry jabs from the narrator.

I never bothered looking for the "hidden puzzle" with the cash prize (puzzle-books with cash prizes were a fad when this came out), but I expect it was a let-down anyway.

Take a look at this if you want to solve the maze or if you want to explore the world. Take it slow and appreciate the rooms. Imagine the people coming and going and make up what other rooms are in the building.

It's a blast.

Oh, the maze itself: quite solvable. Yes, it does kind of cheat, but the cheat is clearly marked and feels entirely fair to me.

Jenny Rekeweg says

done with this book, but certainly did not solve the maze.

Eli says

This. Freaking. Book. Do not be fooled by the fact that it has pictures. This is not a book for children, despite the fact that I absolutely loved it as a child, even though I could never solve it.

I have not solved this yet, or even come slightly close. (There are many things I am willing to use internet walkthroughs for, but this is not one of them. If I did, I would dishonor my family for generations and probably be exiled from society and have to live in shame.) It is near impossible to solve. That, however, does not stop it from being really freaking fun.

What can I say about this book? The writing style is superb and completely envelops you in the story. The illustrations are beautiful and mesmerizing. Both of those aspects are made all the more interesting by the clues. Yes. Clues. Don't roll your eyes. These clues are not the "Blue's Clues" that can be figured out in a second. I mean an impossible web of clues that would take hours to completely decipher. I mean not knowing what is a clue or even noticing all of them. I mean not even being sure what clues to trust. I mean each clue having so many possible meanings that there's no way to know which one is right. And, to make things harder, if that's possible, these clues do not stand alone. Of course they don't. Because Christopher Manson is a frigging genius and I want to hug him and slap him in the face for all the frustration he's brought me at the same time. No, each clue connects to other clues. Between not knowing what's a clue and what's a decoration, what clues to trust, what the clues mean, and where they're telling you to go, is it any wonder that I've been working on this for my entire life and still not found a solution?

In short: buy this book. Buy it now. I don't care how old you are, what kind of books you usually read, or if you think illustrated books are beneath you. Buy it and spend hours trying to understand it and end up simultaneously hating and loving it. Buy it, because this just might be the best book I've ever read.

LAPL Reads says

In 1985 there was a competition to solve a puzzle--a puzzle in the shape of a book. Christopher Manson presented this strange puzzle in an eerie picture book that he wrote and illustrated. Taken all together, the book itself is the maze. You enter the maze by turning the first page. But once you do, will you be able to find the center? Will you find your way back out again? Each page of the book represents a room. Each room has multiple doors that lead to different pages, and you have to choose the right ones to walk through. As you make your way through the maze the mysterious (and untrustworthy) guide leads you from one surreal landscape to another, dropping tantalizing hints that might be lies.

Back in 1985 the person who was able to solve the maze would win \$10,000. But by 1987 no one had been able to solve it. So the company running the competition split the prize money between the top competitors and called it a day.

This hasn't stopped people from entering the maze. People have been trying to solve the Maze ever since. It's been 30 years since this book was released, 28 years since the competition ended, and people are still trying to figure it out. Nowadays there are websites and podcasts and a youtube channel devoted to the puzzle of Maze. But all you need to enter the maze is your library card.

Reviewed by Andrea Borchert, Librarian, Science, Technology & Patents Department,

Séamus Fanning says

I solved this in two days with my brother... and it is my favorite building EVER. It has so many more clues, mysteries, paths that I still have not discovered. I will never finish reading it. The illustrations are dreamlike, eerie, and very . . . silent.

On every page (almost every page) there is one room, hall, courtyard, garden, whatever, with labeled doors leading to other pages, which in turn have doors leading elsewhere, and you will get lost very quickly . . .

I will not say how to solve it, although here is a clue that will help (Important: do not read until you have nearly tried committing suicide trying to solve it): (view spoiler)

You definitely need to buy this book if you have not already.

John says

The subtitle might not be hyperbole. Unfortunately, while the puzzle is indeed challenging, it's also not fun. I spent about an hour trying different paths, then went back and started out where all the doors led, then decided to try to reverse engineer it, starting with which doors led to room 45. And the door you need isn't even a proper door. So annoying.

This book reminded me of nothing so much as one of those idiotic video games where the developers realized they hadn't made it fun, so to compensate they made it incredibly challenging by also making it unfair.

Laura says

Good grief. This book will be the death of me. I found it years ago, still haven't solved it, and sometimes it feels like the book isn't even real- like I spookily stumbled across the only copy that changes as I am reading it. I have never even seen this book anywhere except for the one store I bought it from... you can probably find it online I'd assume.

The entire book is a maze, each page a different room and you flip through the pages like a Choose Your Own Adventure book (a CYOA book on crack). Each room has a paragraph describing your passage through that room and a picture of the room. The paragraph and picture apparently contain clues, in fact the whole book is said to contain clues to be solved in order to find the center then come back out again.

I'm pretty sure Manson is the devil, or God, for creating a book this crazy. Good luck to you if you decide to journey down this path to madness!

Gwen says

My best friend and I became entangled in this book when we were in middle school. It seriously messed with our poor pubescent brains. We found our way to the end of the maze (somehow), but could not answer the question of who the maze builder was. It drove us to distraction trying to figure it out. We guessed Elvis, and God (whoever that was) and The Devil and I can't even remember who else. For years the book was something half remembered from our fevered adolescent minds, but then i found a copy at a second hand store and had to buy it. It's sat on my shelf for a few years now and I don't even want to open the thing! In a couple days I'll give it to my best friend as a joke New Year's gift and get it out of my house. What a strange, unforgettable book.

Ben Rowe says

Will keep revisiting this - it is a book that can be seen, interpreted and enjoyed in many ways. On one level it

is a fun story that can be enjoyed by all ages, a kind of choose your own adventure type story. On other levels it is a puzzle or series of puzzles that use a wide variety of skills to solve. There are messages, clues and puzzles hidden within the pages that can be enjoyed and puzzled over long after solutions to the puzzles are either deduced or googled.
