

# WHAT WE ARE READING

SERIOUS SCIENTIFIC ANSWERS  
*to Absurd Hypothetical Questions*



# what if?



RANDALL MUNROE

creator of *xkcd*

Author: Randall Munroe  
Published: 2014

## What if?

What if everyone on earth aimed a laser pointer at the moon at the same time? What if you could drain all the water from the oceans? What if all the lightning in the world struck the same place?

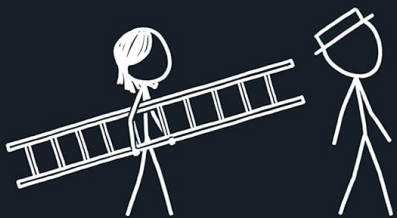
What if there were a book that considered weird, sometimes ridiculous questions, and it was so compelling that you found yourself skimming its pages to find out what would happen if you threw a baseball at light speed?

With *What If*, Randall Munroe has written such a book. As he does in his extraordinarily popular *xkcd* webcomic, Munroe applies reason and research to hypothetical conundrums ranging from the philosophical to the scientific (often absurd, but never pseudo) that probably seemed awesome in your elementary school days—but were never sufficiently answered. It's the rare combination of edifying and fun.

# WHAT WE ARE READING

## how to

ABSURD SCIENTIFIC  
ADVICE FOR COMMON  
REAL-WORLD PROBLEMS



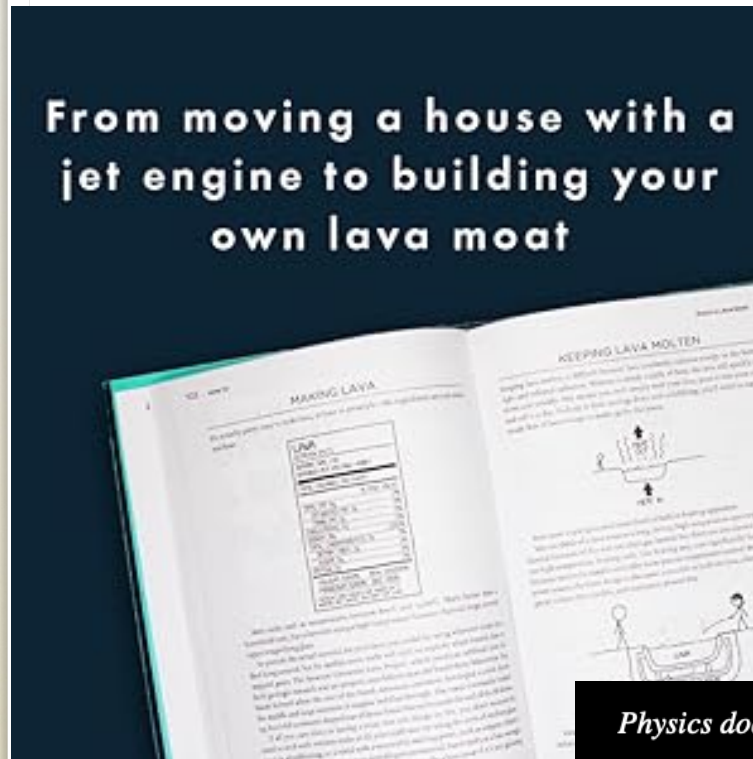
## randall munroe

CREATOR OF xkcd  
AUTHOR OF *WHAT IF?* AND *THING EXPLAINER*

Author: Randall Munroe  
Published: 2019

### How to

From moving a house with a  
jet engine to building your  
own lava moat



*Physics doesn't care if your question is  
weird. It just gives you the answer,  
without judging.*