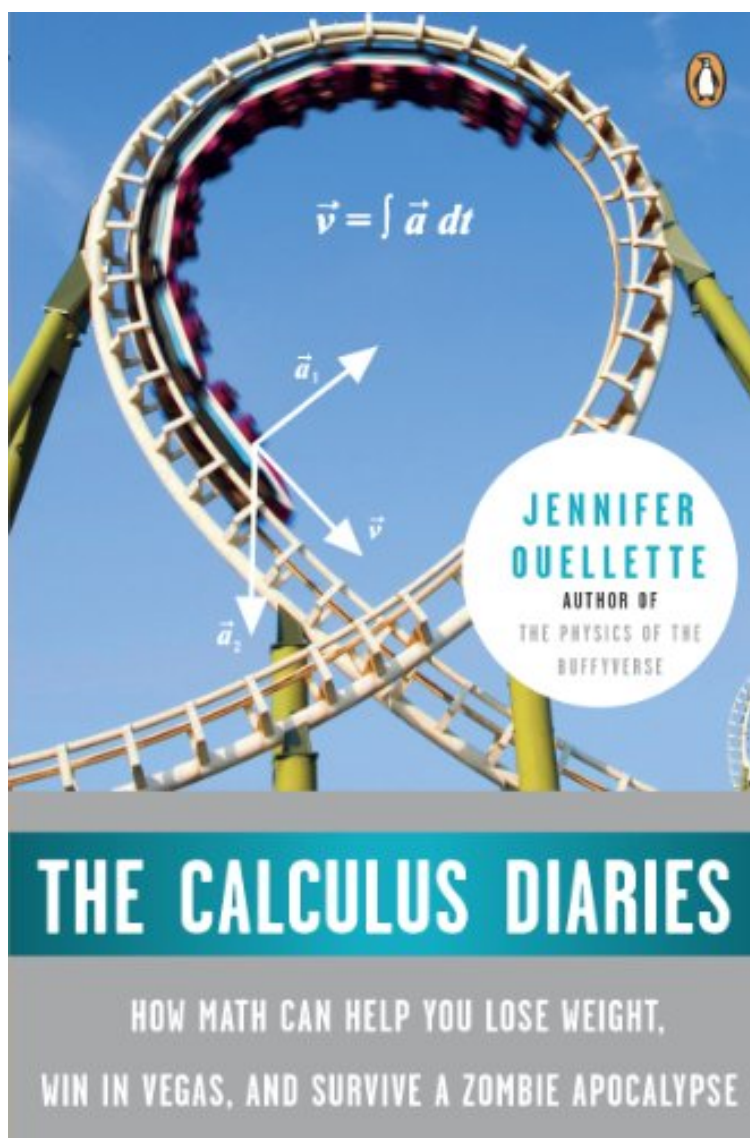


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The Calculus Diaries: How Math Can Help You Lose Weight, Win in Vegas, and Survive a Zombie Apocalypse



Par Jennifer Ouellette
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Description :

Prsentation de l'diteurKiss My Math meets A Tour of the Calculus Jennifer Ouellette never took math in college, mostly because she-like most people-assumed that she wouldn't need it in real life. But then the English-major-turned-award-winning-science-writer had a change of heart and decided to revisit the equations and formulas that had haunted her for years. The Calculus Diaries is the fun and fascinating

account of her year spent confronting her math phobia head on. With wit and verve, Ouellette shows how she learned to apply calculus to everything from gas mileage to dieting, from the rides at Disneyland to shooting craps in Vegas-proving that even the mathematically challenged can learn the fundamentals of the universal language. *Revue de presse* "If, like me, you love the neatness of calculus but never appreciated its applications or the colourful characters who have used it through history, then these diaries are well worth a read." -*New Scientist* "In *The Calculus Diaries*, science writer Jennifer Ouellette makes maths palatable using a mix of humour, anecdote and enticing facts...Using everyday examples, such as petrol mileage and fairground rides, Ouellette makes even complex ideas such as calculus and probability appealing." -*Nature* "This dash through a daunting discipline bursts with wry wit. Ouellette uses differential equations to model the spread of zombies, and derivatives to craft the perfect diet. Sassy throughout, she reserves special barbs for subprime mortgage holders: "Chances are they weren't doing the math." -*Discover* "The *Calculus Diaries* is a great primer for anyone who needs to get over their heebie-jeebies about an upcoming calculus class, or for anyone who's ever wondered how calculus fits into everyday life and wants to be entertained, too!" - Danica McKellar, New York Times bestselling author of *Math Doesn't Suck* and *Hot X: Algebra Exposed* "I haven't had this much fun learning math since I watched *The Count* on 'Sesame Street' when I was three. And the Count never talked about log flumes or zombies. So *The Calculus Diaries* wins the day." -AJ Jacobs, author of *The Know-it-All: One Man's Humble Quest to Become the Smartest Person in the World* "Zombies? Surfing? Gambling? Nobody told me calculus could be like this. To my twelfth-grade math teacher: I demand a do-over!" -Carl Zimmer, author of *Parasite Rex* and *The Tangled Bank: An Introduction to Evolution* "Back in the day, when I was close to flunking out of calculus class because I couldn't understand why it was worth my valuable time to actually understand it, I needed someone like Jennifer Ouellette to gently explain how I wrong I was. She's like every English major's dream math teacher: funny, smart, infected with communicable enthusiasm, and she can rock a Buffy reference. In this book, she hastens the day when more people are familiar with an integral function than with Justin Bieber." -Peter Sagal, host, NPR's "Wait, Wait Don't Tell Me," and author of *The Book of Vice* "In this wonderful and compulsively readable book, Jennifer Ouellette finds the signature of mathematics -- and especially calculus, of course -- in the most unexpected places, the gorgeously lunatic architecture of Spain's Antonio Gaudi, the shimmering arc of waves on a beach. Just following her on the journey is the half the fun. But the other half is learning about the natural beauty and elegance of calculations. Ouellette's ever clear and always stimulating voice is a perfect match to the subject - and *The Calculus Diaries* is a tour de force." -Deborah Blum, author of *The Poisoner's Handbook: Murder and the Birth of Forensic Medicine in Jazz Age New York* "As amusing as it is enlightening, *The Calculus Diaries* is no dry survey of abstractions. It's a guide to everyday life -- to car trips and roller-coaster rides, diet and exercise, mortgages and the housing bubble, even social networking. As Ouellette modestly recounts her own learning curve, she and her husband become characters alongside eccentrics such as Newton and Gaudi and William the Conqueror. Like a great dance teacher, Ouellette steers us so gently we think we're gliding along on our own." -Michael Sims, author of *Adam's Navel: A Natural and Cultural History of the Human Form* "Jennifer Ouellette's calculus confessional is a delight, and an example of the finest kind of science writing. Her book reveals to its readers the gritty inner workings of the most important idea humans have ever thought. (Yes, calculus is that big: it's all about understanding how things change in space and time, and there just isn't much more important than that.) Ouellette's wit, her elegant wielding of metaphor, and her passion for both math and funky culture produce this crucial insight: every equation tells a story, she says, and she's right, and the tales she tells here will captivate even the most math-phobic." -Tom Levenson, author of *Newton and the Counterfeiter* "Like the movies *Batman Begins*, *Spider-Man*, or *Superman*, *The Calculus Diaries* is the story of how an insightful, creative, and hard-working young person acquires superpowers and uses them for the benefit of society. Only this tale is true: Jennifer Ouellette can't fly or spin a web, but she can spin a yarn. *The Calculus Diaries* documents the author's seduction by mathematics and her conquering of it--Eureka!--to see the world with sharper vision. For too many people math, calculus in particular, is an albatross. But Ouellette reveals math for what it is, a powerful tool for solving problems and the exquisite language we use to describe nature. Reading this book will make you smarter. And more powerful." -Eric Roston, author of *The Carbon Age* "If you ever thought that math was useless, read this book. Want to survive a zombie attack? Win at craps? Beat a zombie at craps? Well, listen to Jennifer Ouellette. The math she describes might just be your best hope if you don't want your brains to be gobbled by the undead." -Charles Seife, author of *Zero: Biography of a Dangerous Idea* "A charming and gentle introduction to important mathematical concepts and their relevance to

everyday life." -Leonard Mlodinow, author of *The Drunkard's Walk: How Randomness Rules Our Lives*