

The black swan



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Nissim Nicholas Taleb

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What have the invention of the wheel, Pompeii, the Wall Street Crash, Harry Potter and the internet got in common? Why are all forecasters con-artists? What can Catherine the Great's lovers tell us about probability? And, why should you never run for a train or read a newspaper? This book is all about Black Swans: the random events that underlie our lives, from bestsellers to world disasters. Their impact is huge; they're impossible to predict; yet after they happen we always try to rationalize them. A rallying cry to ignore the 'experts', "The Black Swan" shows us how to stop trying to predict everything - and take advantage of uncertainty.

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367 pages

Review

Great fun . brash, stubborn, entertaining, opinionated, curious, cajoling (Stephen J. Dubner, author of *Freakonomics*)

An idiosyncratically brilliant new book (Niall Ferguson Sunday Telegraph)

A fascinating study of how we are regularly taken for suckers by the unexpected (Larry Elliot Guardian)

Like the conversation of a raconteur ... hugely enjoyable - compelling (John Kay Financial Times)

Confirms his status as a guru for every would-be Damien Hirst, George Soros and aspirant despot (John Cornwell *Sunday Times*)

In the tradition of *The Wisdom of Crowds* and *The Tipping Point (Time)* From the Publisher Shortlisted for the Financial Times and Goldman Sachs Business Book of the Year Award 2007 From the Inside Flap

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