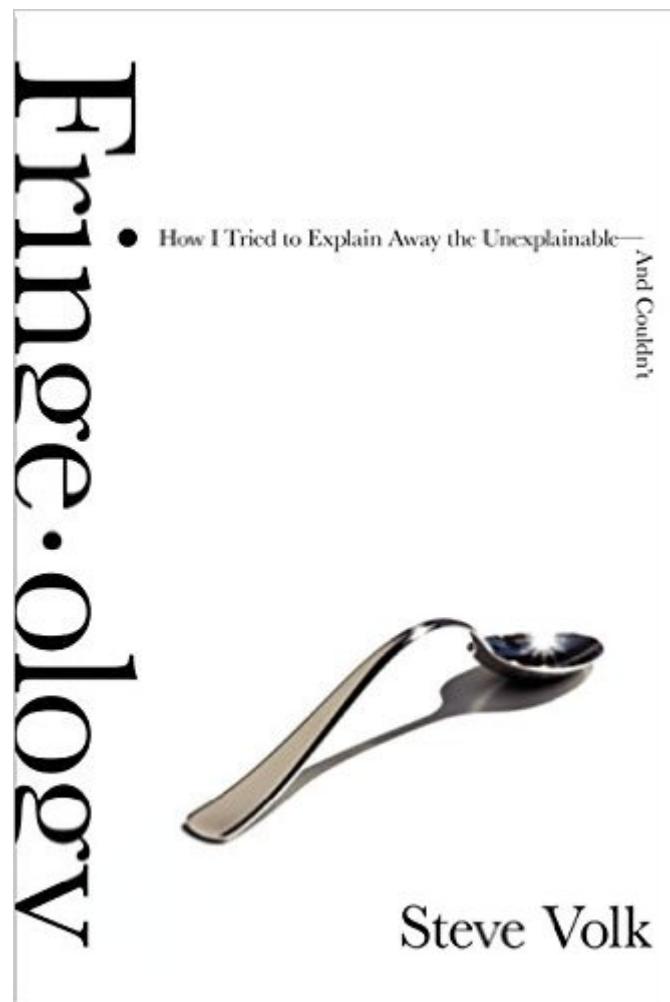


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Fringe-ology: How I Tried To Explain Away The Unexplainable-And Couldn't



Synopsis

“Fringe-Ology” brings a poet’s eye to the frayed edges between the known and unknown, belief and skepticism. A dive into the paranormal even a hardcore skeptic like myself can enjoy. • “Mat Johnson, author of *Pym* Take a strange and unsettling trip into the heart of the paranormal universe as journalist Steve Volk tries to answer some of the most fundamental questions at the heart of human existence. *Fringe-ology* will appeal to anyone curious but cautious about reports of paranormal experiences, psychic phenomena, and other unexplainable events—anyone who has ever wondered about the existence of an afterlife, intelligent life on other planets, or the limits of extrasensory perception. For fans of *Fringe*, *Mythbusters*, *Medium*, *Heroes*, *Nova*, and *Lost*, Volk’s scintillating journey into mystery illuminates the furthest boundaries of possibility and wonder.

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Customer Reviews

Steve Volk is a professional journalist, and that is the perspective he writes from in *Fringe-ology*. Although this is an intellectual quest on his part, his personally engaging style of writing pulls you in from page one. I usually take my time reading books that I enjoy, because I like to savor them like a fine wine, not wanting them to end, yet like a romantic dinner, I can’t help anticipating its direction. *Fringe-ology* was hard to put down for long, so I found myself re-reading several of my favorite chapters to stretch out the experience. The introduction alone would have been worth the price of the book. It’s that good. Then there’s the greater issue of the “Paranormal Taint”, and the chapter on

Elizabeth Kubler-Ross, or the effect that space travel has on Astronauts, lucid dreaming, the placebo effect and... I don't want to give too much away. Hint: there's more to the Paranormal Taint than you may think. Fringe-ology has the feel and integrity of Debra Blum's Ghost Hunters: William James and the Search for Scientific Proof of Life After Death, except that Steve Volk covers a wider variety of phenomena and he approaches his subjects with a more personal touch. He has caught a little bit of flak because at certain points the reader starts to think that Steve is about to 'give in' and pronounce his belief in a supernatural cause underlying the topics he covers, only to have him continue on and give the skeptics their legitimate day in court.

Fringe-ology offers us a quick look at the grey areas that is not often shown in media. In this book, Steve Volk talks about the things that you politely dismiss with a giggle in a social gathering, but you wonder when no one is looking around. However, if you are still wondering, this is the book you should get to start. I was made aware of this book by listening to interviews of Volk throughout several podcasts. On these, a chapter in the book about Lucid Dreaming was mentioned. This intrigued since I thought Lucid Dreaming was not fringe any more. In addition, I realized that I had listened to Volk previously as an interviewer in Skeptiko, and thought highly of him. So I gave the book a try. This book is organized as follows: Introduction: What We Talk About When We Talk About the Paranormal 1. On Death and Not Dying 2. Do You See What I See? 3. Out of Our Heads? Off with Their Heads! 4. Blazing Saddles 5. Was There a Ghost in My House? 6. To Infinity and Beyond 7. The Open Mind 8. The Impossible Dream 9. After-Death Communication? 10. You Can't Go Home Again 11. Our Time in Hell. I got Fringe-ology and went straight to Chapter 8. Volk's writing style struck me as enjoyable, and although Lucid Dreaming was not new to me, this chapter presented LaBerge and his research in this field in a new light. Suffice to say I devoured this chapter, and then I started reading this book the right way, from page one.

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