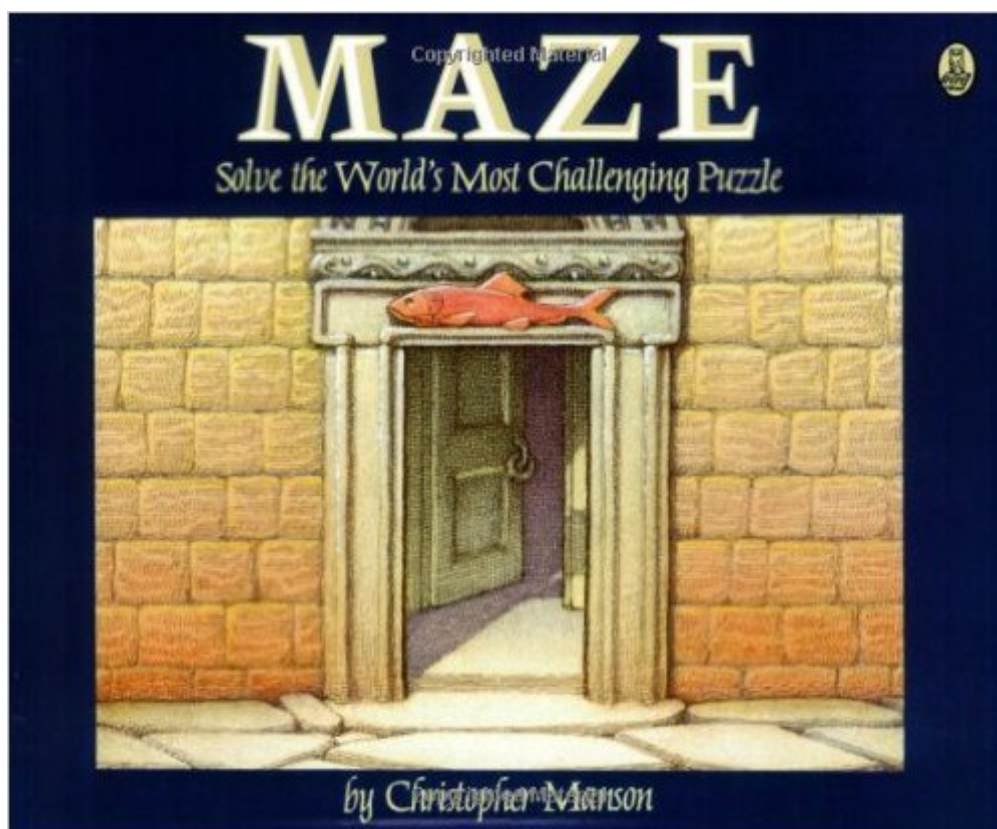


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# Maze: Solve The World's Most Challenging Puzzle



## Synopsis

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!

## Book Information

Age Range: 12 - 17 years

Paperback: 96 pages

Publisher: Holt Paperbacks (November 15, 1985)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0805010882

ISBN-13: 978-0805010886

Product Dimensions: 9.9 x 0.3 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (142 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #62,680 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #20 inÂ Books > Teens > Hobbies & Games > Games & Activities #133 inÂ Books > Humor & Entertainment > Puzzles & Games > Puzzles #392 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Activities, Crafts & Games > Games

## Customer Reviews

As an elementary school teacher, I have read thousands of children's books. This is one of the best. There are layers upon layers of meaning to peel away. My second graders were stimulated by the pictures and the physical structure of the maze. The fifth graders I shared it with began to discover the subtlety of the textual clues. In middle school, the students noticed non-linear connections between rooms in the maze, complexities in the placement of the chambers, and the double entendres of the mysterious host. As an adult, I found myself thrilled by the challenge of The Maze, the creepy ambiguity of meaning, and a pervading sinister feeling that made my stomach uneasy and gave me goosebumps up and down my arms. I envy those who are stepping into the entrance hall for the first time . . . Good Luck!

This work is an engrossing, intriguing, thought-provoking, perspective-changing, paradigm-shifting...maze. This is a work of genius. I can't think of any book, puzzle, or movie to compare it to (except maybe "Labrynth"). The subtle yet surreal illustrations and short dialogues

from your guide draw the visitor/reader into a maddening underworld of the Maze. A friend showed me this book about 13 years ago, and the illustration style and overall eeriness and CHALLENGE stayed in my memory, I recently purchased it, to find it as wonderful as when I was 14 years old. I'm above average at solving puzzles, and I can't even get a good start into "MAZE" before I start doubting my whole interpretation of the "clues", and run around in circles blindly. I give this work 5 stars for the premise and flawless execution, but I would subtract a half star for the following reason: After weeks of serious attempts at deciphering the symbolism, it is still as unintelligible as some of Lewis Carroll's or Aleister Crowley's nonsense. Yes, I am dense. The only solution we've figured out to MAZE involves "cheating", unless that's the real solution. Notice on the cover how there is a very ambiguous fish over the door? Well, that's what it's like inside, too: "ambiguous at best." Utterly eclectic, and gripping. LET ME OUT!

This book is truly one of the most amazing creations I've ever held in my two hands. The dialogues, the pictures, the clues, riddles, symbolism, historical references...it's all fantastic. I've been working on this for over three years now with my best friend and several others, and although we solved it over a year ago, we still keep going back to this book. Everytime you open it up, there's something new to discover. And the more research we do, the more incredible it becomes. It truly lives up to its' title as the World's Most Challenging Puzzle. We're still trying to decipher clues in some of the rooms, although we have theories about nearly all of them, and some hard facts on quite a few. If you want to discuss anything about the Maze, please feel free to e-mail me...we're always interested in new opinions

THE BOOK IS AS OF YET UNSOLVED: Despite the efforts of thousands of people since its publication, this book has yet to be fully solved. At least four chat groups have appeared and disappeared over the years devoted to cracking the puzzles in this book. If you search online you will find the solution to the 16 room path and the hidden message in the center room but that leaves 29 rooms unsolved and many rooms on the 16 room path have puzzles that have yet to be solved. The \$10,000 prize originally attached to this book in 1985 went unclaimed for many months. Eventually they distributed the amount to the individuals who were the closest to a solution. Solving a room, or part of a room, can take weeks, but the feeling of satisfaction is huge... "I solved a room of one of the world's most difficult puzzles!" THERE IS A SUPPORT GROUP: [ [IntoTheAbyss.net](http://IntoTheAbyss.net) ] The solution to the main puzzle and attempts at solutions for the other rooms can be found at the forum [IntoTheAbyss.net](http://IntoTheAbyss.net) launched this year (2013). The multitude of posts shows just how popular

and difficult the book is. **IT IS THE WORLD'S GREATEST SOLVABLE PUZZLE:** I am a fan of puzzles and am very familiar with the scope of available puzzles, in my opinion this is by far the greatest puzzle ever created. It is a masterpiece. The sheer brilliance of its construction is staggering once you delve into it. A few years ago a mathematician attempted to show the relationship between the rooms visually, the result looks like a diagram of the internet. One of the unsolved puzzles is the identity of the unseen "guide." People have theorized that the guide is the Minotaur, King Minos, Icarus, Hades, Christopher Manson (the author), God, Satan, a demon, even an umbrella. Somewhere in the book is the answer. An example of a solution: In room 32 is a banner which says "Sea bag O.K." If you take "Sea" instead as "C" then it becomes an anagram for "Go Back." This solution is confirmed by the fact that unless the reader returns the way they came they will wind up in one of the inescapable trap rooms or stuck in a loop that goes back to the entrance. However the room also contains a bird and a missing statue, how do these relate to the message? I figured it out, the answer is not online and I'm not telling. An example of a yet to be solved room: In this room are four pictures. 1. A scale tipped to the left. 2. A tail. 3. The phrase "WOMANS JEWELRY" written from bottom to top in 3 letter increments. 4. A sign that says, "H+OO." In the center of the room is a trident. As of yet I have not heard from anyone who has a good idea of what this room is trying to say, and I have no clue. No doubt the solution is a phrase of some kind. And since the room is a trap, the phrase probably conveys in some way that the reader is doomed. **INCREDIBLE MOODY, ATMOSPHERIC ARTWORK:** The ink cross hashed images are exceedingly detailed. Manson's ability to convey shadow and light using this method is amazing. The style (and mood) is reminiscent of Edward Gorey, the artist most commonly known for illustrating the introduction to *Masterpiece Mystery*. There is nothing scary in the book, but much of it is oddly disturbing. A quote from room 31, "... a melancholy little courtyard surrounded by a brick wall too high to see over. A dead tree lifts its bone white branches to a sky filling with gray clouds." The picture fits the description, it's just a tree in a courtyard. But as I study the page for clues I notice that the branches look like bones, the faces on the doors look strange, and suddenly I feel a chill. This kind of experience is almost universal for people who really get into the book. **FOR SEEKERS, NOT CHILDREN:** This book is not for young children, it may give them the willies and they will get nowhere. This book is for fans of eerie, practically unsolvable puzzles who are MENSAs candidates or artistic free thinkers. It is for people who like the *Twilight Zone*, *LOST*, and *House of Leaves*. It is for people who stray from normal life, past where the sidewalk ends, and wander down the rabbit hole. It is one of the most curious and unique books ever made. Christopher Manson once said that with every book he made he was seeking to create a perfect book... he may have

succeeded.

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