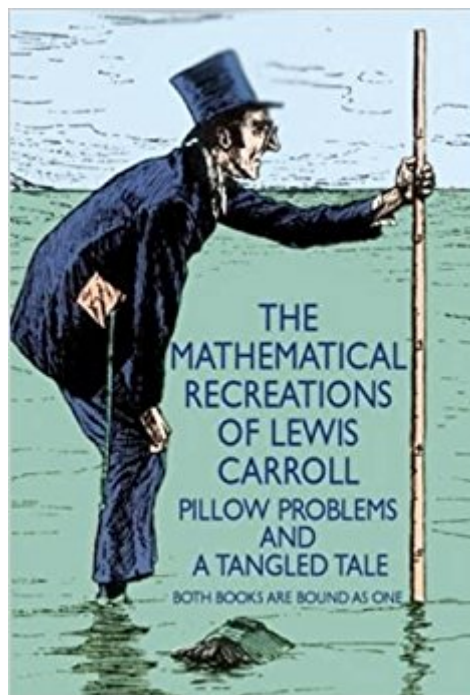




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# The Mathematical Recreations Of Lewis Carroll: Pillow Problems And A Tangled Tale (Dover Recreational Math)



## Synopsis

Virtually unobtainable for many years, these two books by Lewis Carroll (C. L. Dodgson) have now been reprinted in their entirety for the pleasure of modern enthusiasts of mathematical puzzles. Written by the 19th-century mathematician who gave us *Alice in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking Glass*, they contain an unusual combination of wit and mathematical intricacy that will test your mathematical ingenuity and provide hours of stimulating entertainment. *Pillow-Problems* is one of the rarest of all Lewis Carroll's works. It contains 72 mathematical posers ranging from those that can be solved by arithmetic, simple algebra, or plane geometry, to those that require more advanced algebra, trigonometry, algebraic geometry, differential calculus, and transcendental probabilities. Both numerical answers and fully worked out solutions are given, each in a separate section so that you can test your methods of problem-solving even after you have looked up the answer to a problem. In *A Tangled Tale*, Carroll embodies some of his most perplexing mathematical puzzles in the ten knots or chapters of a delightful story that has all the charm and wit of his better-known works. The Tale was originally printed as a monthly magazine serial, and many readers sent in solutions to the problems that were posed in it. In the long Appendix to The Tale, which contains the answers and solutions to the problems, Carroll uses the answers sent in by readers as the basis for illuminating and entertaining discussions of the many wrong ways in which the problems can be attacked, as well as the right ways.

## Book Information

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: Preschool and up

## Customer Reviews

Lewis Carroll (1832–1898) was the pseudonym of Charles Lutwidge Dodgson, a Professor of Mathematics at Cambridge University. Alice's Adventures in Wonderland and its sequel, Through the Looking Glass, are rich repositories of his sparkling gifts for wordplay, logic, and fantasy.

Not bad. But old typesets are annoying and the math puzzles are kinda old imo. Also, too many geometry questions.

excellent book

This is an odd book by the author of Alice in Wonderland. It straddles fantasy and mathematics. Not for light reading but I am working my way through it and have enjoyed it (even though some parts are hard going).

Great book for all types of math problems. Fun to work, if you love math. Carroll is talented with words and mathematics.

As expected; condition was as described., book is only moderately interesting, but I wanted to see it anyway.

This book contains two publications by Lewis Carroll. Pillow Problems contains 72 elementary mathematical problems together with their solutions. The problems are hard. The level is comparable to mathematical Olympiad material. The solutions are clear but sometimes use idioms and methods that were in use in the 19th century (like the use of "analysis" and "synthesis" as phases in a geometric proof). The subjects of the problems are geometry, algebra and probability. I try to solve them when I am sleepless in bed, maybe my pillow is not right (at least for some of the problems). A Tangled Tale is more like the Lewis Carroll one expects. Problems are presented as part of an illustrated (tangled) tale. There are ten tales (called "knots") that contain really nice and demanding problems. There is also a section containing the solutions. The text originally appeared as a monthly publication. Solutions were sent in and these solutions were used in the text to

illustrate common mistakes, to produce nice solutions and to make fun. If you like mathematical problems this book should be of interest to you. If you are just interested in Lewis Carroll then be prepared, the Pillow Problems will be enigmatic and A Tangled Tale will be nonsense, but not the nonsense you know from the Alice book.

As an Alice in Wonderland collector, it was fun to have something new, but it is such nonsense, it will just sit in my collection.

Charles L. Dodgson was a Mathematical Lecturer at Oxford, better known as Lewis Carroll. This collection of mathematical puzzles was compiled in 1893, following years of insomnia. Dodgson claimed to have solved every puzzle, without pencil and paper, during his sleepless nights. This incredible feat is difficult to comprehend, even for such a genius. The complexity and good humor of the problems and tales are suggestive of his well-loved "Alice in Wonderland". Dodgson also hints at his pioneering the field of symbolic logic.

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