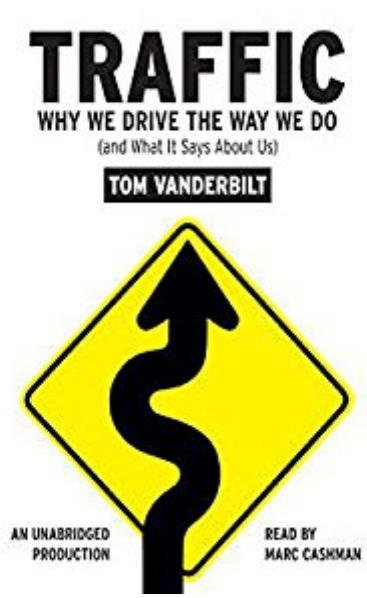
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Traffic: Why We Drive The Way We Do (and What It Says About Us)



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Synopsis

A New York Times Notable BookOne of the Best Books of the YearThe Washington Post Ã¢â ¬Â¢ The Cleveland Plain-Dealer Ã¢â ¬Â¢ Rocky Mountain NewsIn this brilliant, lively, and eye-opening investigation, Tom Vanderbilt examines the perceptual limits and cognitive underpinnings that make us worse drivers than we think we are. He demonstrates why plans to protect pedestrians from cars often lead to more accidents. He uncovers who is more likely to honk at whom, and why. He explains why traffic jams form, outlines the unintended consequences of our quest for safety, and even identifies the most common mistake drivers make in parking lots. Traffic is about more than driving: it's about human nature. It will change the way we see ourselves and the world around us, and it may even make us better drivers. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Very very very interesting book that sometimes reads as a treatise. I picked this book up because I'm a nerd who often wonders why things are done the way they are and/or how we can fix them. I usually read up on a topic, get and then move on to something else. This book was fantastic for explaining a lot of things in a very interesting way. However, sometimes you'll wonder why in the heck you are reading a book called "Traffic" The depth of explanation in this book is both a strength and a potential weakness. You can't help but notice that the author has turned a boring topic into something that will make you say "hmmm, that's interesting" in your head. At the same time...there were plenty of times I felt like the same things were stated over and over and could have been said much more efficiently. I found that a little annoying at times. For my non-fiction, I like my books to

get in, get out w/ as little effort as possible. This is not that book even though, I very much enjoyed many of the explanations for why we experience different emotions etc. Good book that could be a lot shorter.

This is a fascinating book! Much more interesting than I had originally anticipated, I was riveted! I've since re-read it, still a lot to absorb. And now, if only we could make all the worst drivers read this book...

A very interesting book on a complex subject. Heard about it on "A way with Words" podcast and bought it. It has information I can use for a lifetime, plus I can drive my friends crazy with traffic trivia.

at last, there's a book that explains in clear terms all I wanted to know about traffic, and only suspected before reading this book. Many examples make this work entertaining to read, and still it provides very useful knowledge about why traffic is sometimes so difficult to manage and organize. The human factor and the specific psychological state drivers get into while driving are now at last provided with a sound scientific explanation. At the same time, reading the book becomes a pleasant journey to new discoveries, and the chapters give new lights on more well known themes. Highly recommend for traffic safety or traffic planning professionals, but certainly open to anyone who likes to undestand why things on the road are the way they are ...

Tom Vanderbilt was led to research and write Traffic because he was puzzled by two phenomena. One was the behavior of drivers, including himself, in merge lanes around road construction. The other was the traffic in Delhi, India. Insane to a Westerner, it nonetheless works. Why do we drive in the ways we do? The quest for answers led him to explore psychology, driver simulators, safety research, and cultural differences. Some of his conclusions are persuasive, some questionable, and one or two outlandish. One thing's for sure: You won't look at driving the same way. Worth a read.

I have always been fascinated in why drivers drive the way they do, and this book explains a lot - and opened my eyes to the reasons for some puzzling syndromes. This book should be required reading for anyone who drives, (perhaps as part of the licensing procedure) and it is something I think Insurance Companies should certainly study, in order to perhaps fund some research that might make driving safer and less stressful than it is now.This book lives on my "Read many times"

shelf.This book is recommended to anyone who drives - or is a passenger - in a motor vehicle.

Excellent, interesting book on how we drive and why. Anyone interested in human behavior or sociology will likely enjoy this read. It includes historical information as well as numerous studies conducted on driving and different aspects of driving and perception.

There’s a lot to learn from this book and Vanderbilt is a talented writer with an ability to make boring, esoteric research seem interesting. He helped me rethink approaches to road construction, traffic congestion, traffic safety and lots of other things related to, well, traffic. I liked this book and I’m glad I read it.I didn’t give it 5 stars because there was not one take-away. I guess his thesis is that driving is very dehumanizing, but we’re still human. Good point, but I’d like a little more take-away than this. As it stands, the book was filled with a bunch of interesting facts/theories/counter-intuitive conclusions, but with very little tying in together.

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