



Synchronicity

Kirby Surprise

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Trudy says

Because I heard a lengthy interview with the author on the radio, there wasn't much of anything new in the book. I've been looking into these kinds of subjects for many years, and a new take on an old subject is always welcome!

Having said that, the book itself could be an engaging read for somebody wanting to know more about this strange phenomenon.

Sue Smith says

Now this book surprised me.

God, I love surprises! It's like waking up on your day off totally refreshed and finding bright blue skies and unlimited possibilities for the day ahead. It just makes you happy inside.

I perhaps should clarify things. I have been in on a journey - of sorts - to not exactly 'find myself' but to certainly get to a better understanding of myself and perhaps ground myself and become okay with what and who I am. It's been an interesting exercise to say the least, and one that will probably extend til the end of my physical existence. I have no time constraints on this journey and no particular guidelines, other than what I stumble upon or what strikes my fancy and to go with the flow.

Honestly, I can say that although I have a long way to go, I've also gone a goodly distance down the path and am a much happier person for it. It's been an interesting trip to date and I'm excited to what lies ahead for me.

And that brings me to this book and it's surprising content and awareness.

I don't know what I was expecting - perhaps more of the same of things I've read before (it's not my first jaunt down a synchronicity path). - but it certainly wasn't this. This book seemed to both clarify and confirm things I felt were a base truth, that what I felt and experienced were on track and real.

It was a little vindicating. And exhilarating. And daunting. Because it all comes down to you and your choices, truly seeing and then acting accordingly to make things be what they are – for better or for worse.

There's a 'practical' side of this wee tome that gets a little out of hand and was a little over my head at times. I figure things will be tried with baby steps. But I am excited to try it anyways. Truthfully – I've experienced it and know it works. It's truly an awakening to consciousness that is at your fingertips. It's not Harry Potter magic, but it's just as sweet. Because it's real!!!

Ivy says

A frustrating read. Starts off really nicely by promising you insight into synchronicity but then fails to follow through. (I gave up at page 100).

All I learned from him is that Synchronistic Events are self-created and may not be causative but I remain doubtful. Lacks research but more frustratingly it doesn't "connect the dots".

A lot of the chapters seem to follow this pattern of lack of follow through. EG In pg 78, he tells a story of a client who exhibits signs of suffering from grandeur -- he interprets synchronistic events as calls from God. Dr Kirby says it's not, so you're expecting some words of wisdom but then he promptly ends the story by saying he only saw him for one session and doesn't know how the patient ended up. He doesn't even refute the patient on his interpretation either. So what's the point?

Excruciating.

With that said, I don't think his theory is unfounded but I think he jumped the gun by writing a book while his theory is still incomplete -- a pity.

And it needs a good editor if they plan to do a second edition. There are a few typos and grammatical errors.

Todd says

Really wanted and expected to like this book, but it just didn't work for me. The examples of synchronistic events woven through the text are much more illustrative of the concept than the author's ragged attempts to define synchronicity.

D.Richard Lewis says

This is the most important book on this subject to come along in years....The author has actually discovered that Dr. Carl Jung, who discovered "Synchronicity," was wrong about its origin....It seems that we create them ourselves by the way we think, and not by what happens outside of our minds, as Jung believed.....This means that you can create them to your advantage in life, that is if you look for them and are aware they are being created by you at every instance of your thoughts.....This book's information is the foundation of all magic that our forefathers believed was coming from some other realm, other than our own minds....A truly eye-opening read for the student of the mind....

Doug Dillon says

An easy to read book that wonderfully simplifies and expands Carl Jung's work in this field. Calling coincidences Synchronistic Events (SEs), Dr. Surprise not only validates these experiences, he also teaches the reader how to work with them. One way he does this is to use his own SEs as examples even as they occur while he is writing a particular portion of the book.

Pointing towards discoveries in Quantum Physics, Dr. Surprise stresses his view that we are multidimensional beings operating in a multidimensional universe. Well schooled in delusional thinking, however, he consistently cautions the reader in assigning specific meaning to the SEs that pop up around us. In order to maintain clarity of thought and action when operating in this arena, he strongly recommends the consistent practice of meditation.

Synchronicity, will be a very valuable tool for anyone wanting to seriously probe the nature of coincidence.

Erwin Rossen says

The idea of synchronicity is nice, but he is falling in the same trap as he is the reader (listener) warning about: he is telling a story as a metaphor but pretending it is the truth. As a physicist, I got annoyed after a while with the abuse of concepts of extra dimensions and warping of spacetime. I still give it three stars, since I really enjoyed thinking about synchronicity while listening to the book.

Nicky says

For many SEs (Synchronistic Events) are the work of some higher being - God, The Universe, Angels etc. For Kirby Surprise SEs are things we create ourselves and therefore make no sense to anyone but us. They are effectively our subconscious creating and seeking to make sense from patterns. Mostly we subconsciously create SEs, but we can also consciously create them too. Dr Surprise has a fun writing style and the book is full of examples of SEs and tips on how to use SEs in your life.

Kristen Nace says

I recently had some freaky synchronicities happen which got me searching for information on the subject. I listened to a podcast with this guy and was intrigued enough to download this book. I found it confusing though. On the one hand his theory is SEs are generated by our own brains, but then in the exercises there is one in which we can try to unconsciously talk to another person's higher consciousness via SEs. So it's not just me? Or it is just my own subconscious talking to conscious me? In any case, it's fascinating to think about. This book left me with many more questions than answers.

Bobby Cameron says

From the moment my hands touched this book the meaningful coincidences started unfolding. Being thirsty for this truth I believe put it all in gear but this read is truly inspiring and left me with a great sense of control I never felt before. Now I realize these space time events popping up that mean so much I created. I'm looking forward to the rest of my journey with this new awaken. Thank you Kirby for your brilliance.

Natacha Pavlov says

I was really excited to read this book and see what new insight it had to offer, but this was short-lived. At first the book seemed interesting, but it quickly became difficult to stay tuned in, what with the clear bias and judgmental tone. Especially with a scientific book, I'd expect facts and statements that show what the author means; not constant opinions on other approaches to synchronicity (ie: mystical, religious, etc.). I get that the author has a scientific background and as such, perhaps he doesn't realize how his language betrays his bias and rudeness, at least at times—but then again, I'd file that under 'editing concerns' (which comes up again later). But ironically, perhaps because he's a psychiatrist, I'd expect him to be a bit more discerning with his work (or does he only make a point to analyze others and not himself?). The irony (or not) is that I was reading a lengthy book on Jung simultaneously, which included his chapter on synchronicity. And while Jung's work and language is generally far more complex, I was far better able to absorb—and be amazed by—the scope of his work than this book was able to do for me.

A few basic points on the book:

1. The approach is based on evolutionary views, which I don't believe in. I automatically knew this would take me down another path, but that in itself isn't grounds for me to stop reading something. The issue here is not with my disagreement with this view, but rather, with my understanding and belief that one's view on the origin of life often can, and will, impact one's view of everything else.
2. So much for a 'scientific' approach when much of what he does is state his opinions while criticizing others'. He says himself that he is "deeply suspicious of anyone who claims synchronistic events (SEs for short) result from personal relationships with unseen supernatural forces" (p. 95) and seems to equally dismiss mythological explanations of SEs (p. 117). He may find other theories to be "just silly" and that "most models of SEs fail because they are operating either from a religious mythology or from obsolete science," but he does not do a better job at conveying his own points. See more on that below.
3. Perhaps the most frustrating thing of all is that the arguments are not laid out well, and seem either confusing or downright contradicting.

For instance, he states that synchronistic events (SEs) are mirrors that reflect back what's going on inside us. This seemed incomplete to me. However, he later adds they also 'provide help and information.' Speaking from my own experience with SEs, this is what I believe SEs to do. But I'm therefore not sure that defining SEs as 'mirrors' is the correct term since mirrors don't generally 'provide help and information'; they only reflect.

Moreover, the early part of the book spends much time repeating how we can, and do, create our own SEs—which require our thought processes. Then, on pg. 110, he states that "you never have full conscious control of your thought processes." Well then, if we never have control of our thought processes, how can you claim that we can always, unfailingly create our own SEs? Clearly, he contradicts himself by saying that we create them, if we aren't in complete control of our thought processes, which affect said SEs. In addition, this can also mean that we can't be entirely sure what creates SEs and although we may create some of them, we may not create them all (and therefore Jung may not be entirely wrong on that front; which is what the author loves to go back on throughout the book).

But the last straw for me was the following:

On p. 152, the author states that “you are never going to be sure about SEs.” Um, WHAT?! If we are never going to be sure about SEs, then why am I reading a book that attempts to pinpoint exactly what—and who—causes them?! And did I really need to get halfway through the book to come to this quote? It felt inconsistent and annoying and I called it quits. We ‘may not be sure about SEs’, but what I AM sure about is that, given my pile of nearly 200 books, I have to be discerning of what gets my attention.

Lastly (as if the above wasn’t troublesome enough as it is), I’m quite shocked at the alarming presence of bad (or is it lack of?) editing this text was subjected to. Misspellings, grammatical errors, syntax, etc. are recurrent issues. Again—I get that the author is a scientist but this is where I’d figure that if one knows they have some areas they struggle with, then finding a competent editor would be of the essence. It just ended up feeling like a hot mess on so many levels. Obviously, it goes without saying that I’m no ‘authority’ on Carl Jung but his work is unquestionably influential, and is just on a whole other level, period. I definitely DON’T recommend this book as the starting point on the subject of synchronicity.

Josht77 says

The concept is great, and while reading it I did notice a lot of synchronicities happening in my life whether big or small.

The only reason I didn't give it 5 stars is because it does get quite repetitive at times, and I feel the book doesn't have to be as long as it is to get the entire message across.

But all in all I love the message and I believe it could change the way you look at what's happening around your life.

Ben says

I just couldn't get into it.. I was excited for a book on the topic of synchronicity but just couldn't relate to the author's style of writing and felt it was disjointed. Some of the statements were just too generalised and lacking in substance.

L.L. says

Hmm... ksi??ka ciekawa, temat te?. Natomiast hmm... ja "nadaj? na lekko innych falach", wi?c tak a? pod racjonalistów pisana ksi??ka nie jest mi potrzebna :P i w pewnych drobnych kwestiach si? nie znam... CÓ?, ca?okszta?t oceniam na jakie? trzy i pó? na pi??.

Ale kilka fajnych cytatów si? znalaz?o:

"Bodhidharma nie potrafi odpowiedzie? na pytanie, kim jest, poniewa? odr?bno?? jest dla niego iluzj?. Móg? powiedzie? co? w stylu: „Jestem tob?, g?upcze, a tak?e krzes?em, na którym siedzisz, pomieszczeniem, które widzisz, s?ug? podaj?cym ci wino – ka?dym oraz wszystkim, czego kiedykolwiek do?wiadczy?e?”. " (s.69)

"Nie istnieje co? takiego, jak odr?bne obiekty. Przestrze? to pole energii, co? na kszta?t bezkresnej tkaniny . Cz?steczki materii to po prostu obszary, w których tkanina ta pozostaje w ruchu lub jest bardziej zwarta. Nic nie rozdziela tu poszczególnych obiektów; wszystkie stanowi? jedno??. Nie ma pustej przestrzeni; odr?bno?? to iluzja. Kolejn? prawd? objawion? ?wiatu przez Einsteina by?o stwierdzenie, i? skoro nie ma odr?bno?ci mi?dzy polem energii, jakim jest przestrze?, a materi?, z której jest ona zbudowana, to materia i energia to jedno i to samo. Znów pojawia si? w?tek jedno?ci. Ty, ksi??ka, któr? w?a?nie trzymasz w r?ku, ?wiat?o i energia cieplna obecna w twoim pokoju – wszystko to stanowi t? sam? energi?, cz??? tego samego pola."

(s.95)

"Widzia?em co?, czego nie by?o. Spróbuj, a tak?e zobaczysz to, co chcesz ujrze?. Oto, w jaki sposób dzia?a ten mechanizm. Gdy co? sobie wyobra?asz, twój mózg wykorzystuje te same obszary do stworzenia wymy?lonej wizji, co w przypadku tworzenia prawdziwego obrazu na podstawie danych p?yn?cych od zmys?ów. Skanery mózgu pokazuj?, ?e zar?wno wtedy , gdy wyobra?amy sobie ?rubokr?t, jak i wtedy, kiedy patrzymy na jego zdj?cie, aktywuje si? ten sam obszar kory wzrokowej. Jedyna ró?nica polega na tym, i? w przypadku wyobra?enia aktywno?? jest mniej sza, a obraz s?abszy."

(s.113)

"To, czego chcemy, wp?ywa na nasze samopoczucie, co z kolei ma prze?o?enie na to, jak my?limy. Nasze my?lenie oddzia?uje na nasze uczucia, co wyznacza nasze pragnienia. Wszystko to znajduje odzwierciedlenie w wydarzeniach synchronicznych."

(s.114)

"Posiadasz umiej?tno?? wyra?ania wybranych my?li w postaci konkretnych form my?lowych. Czy oznacza to, ?e twoje my?li staj? si? prawdziwymi przedmiotami pojawiaj?cymi si? wokó? ciebie? Owszem. Wydaje si? to nieprawdopodobne, ale obiekty mentalne stworzone z MN-przestrzeni nawet w tej chwili istniej? tu? obok ciebie. Pomy?l o nich jak o duchach, tworach urzeczywistnionych przez twoje my?li. To w?a?nie formy my?lowe."

(s.141)

Melissa says

This book took almost a month to read....I had a hard time with the run-on sentences, the tangents, the bold "opinions" stated as fact, not to mention the grammatical issues. The editor needs a new line of work. Finally, about halfway through the book, I read a passage that sounded like something Dr Sheldon Cooper from Big Bang Theory would say. From that point on, I read the book as if Sheldon was reading me the book :) It actually made it much more enjoyable to read!

On page 256 (9 pages from the end...), the author writes, "Sometimes when I write I have the feeling there is something I would like to say, but making the thought clear eludes me." Yeah....

Aside from the Sheldon-like communication style (annoying yet grows on you), the book was interesting to read, but only a few pages at a time.

Of course, this is my opinion - not a fact.
