



# Wonderland: How Play Made the Modern World

By Steven Johnson

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**Wonderland: How Play Made the Modern World** By Steven Johnson

**“A house of wonders itself. . . . *Wonderland* inspires grins and well-what-d'ya-knows” —*The New York Times Book Review***

**From the *New York Times*–bestselling author of *How We Got to Now* and *Where Good Ideas Come From*, a look at the world-changing innovations we made while keeping ourselves entertained.**

This lushly illustrated history of popular entertainment takes a long-zoom approach, contending that the pursuit of novelty and wonder is a powerful driver of world-shaping technological change. Steven Johnson argues that, throughout history, the cutting edge of innovation lies wherever people are working the hardest to keep themselves and others amused.

Johnson’s storytelling is just as delightful as the inventions he describes, full of surprising stops along the journey from simple concepts to complex modern systems. He introduces us to the colorful innovators of leisure: the explorers, proprietors, showmen, and artists who changed the trajectory of history with their luxurious wares, exotic meals, taverns, gambling tables, and magic shows.

In *Wonderland*, Johnson compellingly argues that observers of technological and social trends should be looking for clues in novel amusements. You’ll find the future wherever people are having the most fun.

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## **Wonderland: How Play Made the Modern World By Steven Johnson Bibliography**

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## Editorial Review

### Review

“A house of wonders itself. . . . *Wonderland* inspires grins and well-what-d'ya-knows” —*The New York Times Book Review*

“A rare gem. . . . Our illogical, enduring fascination with play remains one of life’s great mysteries. That is precisely what makes the subject so fascinating, and *Wonderland* such a compelling read.” —*The Washington Post*

“The parade of humanity Johnson presents in this lively (and generously illustrated) work leads us to the reassuring conclusion that history is often made not by nerds in lab coats, but by ingenious humans hankering for more intriguing ways to pass the time.” —*O, The Oprah Magazine*

“Johnson’s writing derives its appeal from his ability to illuminate complex ideas in unpretentious language . . . Johnson’s prose is nimble, his knowledge impressive . . . *Wonderland* is original and fun, as well it should be, given the subject.” —*The San Francisco Chronicle*

“*Wonderland* brims with. . . tidbits, memorable moments, and bits of information that light up the mind. . . . [Johnson] surprises and delights as he traces the path of how various objects of fun and fancy—mechanized dolls, follies, and music boxes—drove advances.” —*The Boston Globe*

“Mr. Johnson’s narrative is crammed with elegantly told vignettes from the history of ideas. . . . The book is full of excellent facts.” —*The Wall Street Journal*

“Johnson . . . provides a compelling counterintuitive argument that the Industrial Revolution, democracy, and the computer age were all driven by diversions and appetites that historians too often ignore.” —*Kirkus* (starred review)

“In an entertaining and accessible style, he takes tangents that arrive at sometimes startling conclusions, like a magician practicing misdirection. . . . Johnson connects the dots in a way that sheds new light on everyday concepts.” —*Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

“Johnson is a master storyteller, weaving disparate elements together into a rich and seamless tapestry of technology and human history.” —*Booklist* (starred review)

“An engaging survey full of unexpected connections that readers of a historical or sociological bent will find particularly riveting.” —*Library Journal*

### About the Author

**Steven Johnson** is the bestselling author of ten books, including *How We Got to Now*, *Where Good Ideas Come From*, *The Invention of Air*, *The Ghost Map*, and *Everything Bad Is Good for You*. The founder of a variety of influential websites, he is the host and co-creator of the PBS and BBC series *How We Got to Now*. Johnson lives in Marin County, California, and Brooklyn, New York, with his wife and three sons.

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Lindsey Gant:**

Spent a free time for you to be fun activity to do! A lot of people spent their free time with their family, or all their friends. Usually they carrying out activity like watching television, about to beach, or picnic in the park. They actually doing same thing every week. Do you feel it? Would you like to something different to fill your personal free time/ holiday? Could be reading a book is usually option to fill your cost-free time/ holiday. The first thing that you will ask may be what kinds of guide that you should read. If you want to try look for book, may be the reserve untitled Wonderland: How Play Made the Modern World can be good book to read. May be it could be best activity to you.

#### **Ronnie Miller:**

This Wonderland: How Play Made the Modern World is great publication for you because the content which can be full of information for you who also always deal with world and still have to make decision every minute. This specific book reveal it data accurately using great manage word or we can state no rambling sentences within it. So if you are read the idea hurriedly you can have whole details in it. Doesn't mean it only provides you with straight forward sentences but tough core information with beautiful delivering sentences. Having Wonderland: How Play Made the Modern World in your hand like keeping the world in your arm, details in it is not ridiculous 1. We can say that no e-book that offer you world throughout ten or fifteen moment right but this publication already do that. So , it is good reading book. Hi Mr. and Mrs. stressful do you still doubt in which?

#### **Nicole Reagan:**

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#### **David Gaiter:**

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