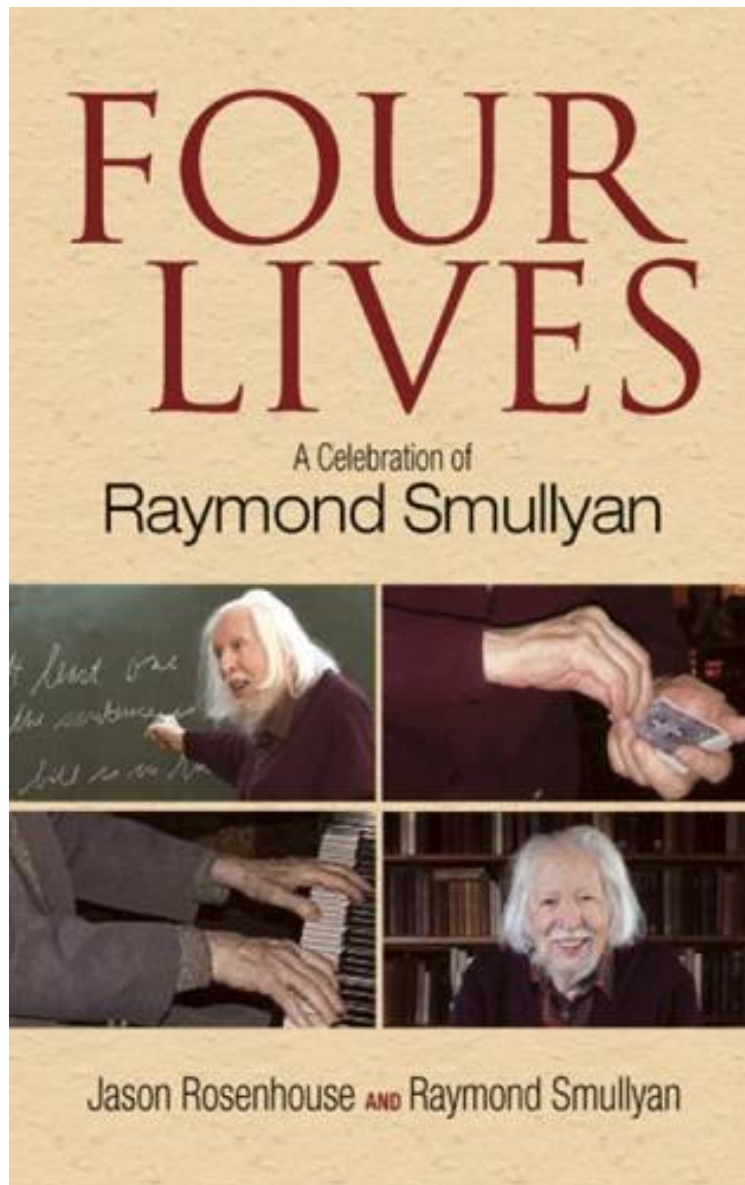


## Four Lives: A Celebration of Raymond Smullyan

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#2049224 in Books 2014-03-19 2014-02-19Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.00 x 1.00 x 6.10l, .0 #File Name: 048649067X352 pages | File size: 59.Mb

**From Dover Publications :** **Four Lives: A Celebration of Raymond Smullyan** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Four Lives: A Celebration of Raymond Smullyan:

6 of 7 people found the following review helpful. I really wanted to like this bookBy Aaron C. BrownI am a lifelong fan of Raymond Smullyan's logic puzzles, and I am familiar with some of his professional mathematics as well. The section of this book that contains selections from Smullyan's writings is excellent, but why not go to the originals and

get the selections and more? Smullyan is a clear and entertaining author, he needs no advance preparation. That said, it was interesting to me to see some of Smullyan's non-logic writing. It was educational as far as it went, but it didn't tempt me to get the original books. So if you want to pick and choose among Smullyan's writings, I guess this would be a useful way to figure out what you liked. The book begins with short essays on Smullyan from a number of people who knew him, or were correspondents. These are earnest with some amusing anecdotes (unfortunately, some are repeated) and insights into Smullyan's personality and work. Most of them are just not interesting enough for a book. If you knew either Smullyan or the essay author they would make amusing dinner conversation, but most people aren't going to buy a book to read mildly entertaining stories by people they don't know about people they don't know. Undoubtedly someone will someday fashion this and other material into a biography, which I will be very interested to read. But the undigested raw material is less than compelling. This certainly isn't a bad book. It reminds me of the scrapbooks people put together for retirement parties, with testimonials and pictures and reminisces. But nobody pays to read those, even if the honoree is as accomplished and unique as Smullyan. By all means celebrate the great man, but do it by buying one of his books. By all means celebrate the circle of love, respect and accomplishment that surrounds people; but do it with your own friends, even if they don't measure up to Smullyan's incredible standards.

This "best of" hardcover collection of works by Raymond Smullyan features excerpts from his published writings, including logic puzzles, explorations of mathematical logic and paradoxes, retrograde analysis chess problems, jokes and anecdotes, and meditations on the philosophy of religion. Jason Rosenhouse, the editor of *Four Lives*, has provided an Introduction, in addition to compiling numerous tributes from former students, friends, and others saluting this celebrated professor, author, and logic scholar hailed by Martin Gardner as "the most entertaining logician and set theorist who ever lived."

About the Author