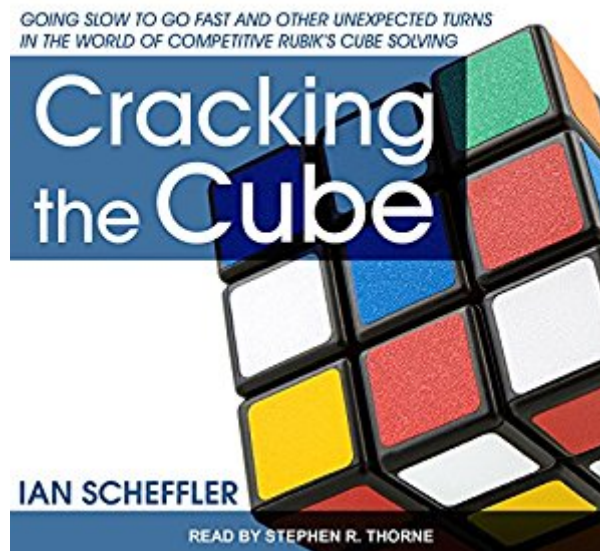




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# Cracking The Cube: Going Slow To Go Fast And Other Unexpected Turns In The World Of Competitive Rubik's Cube Solving



## Synopsis

When Hungarian professor Erno Rubik invented the Rubik's Cube (or, rather, his Cube) in the 1970s out of wooden blocks, rubber bands, and paper clips, he didn't even know if it could be solved, let alone that it would become the world's most popular puzzle. Since its creation, the Cube has become many things to many people: one of the best-selling children's toys of all time, a symbol of intellectual prowess, a frustrating puzzle with 43.2 quintillion possible permutations, and now a worldwide sporting phenomenon that is introducing the classic brainteaser to a new generation. In *Cracking the Cube*, Ian Scheffler reveals that cubing isn't just fun and games. Along with participating in speedcubing competitions - from the World Championship to local tournaments - and interviewing key figures from the Cube's history, he journeys to Budapest to seek a meeting with the legendary and notoriously reclusive Rubik, who is still tinkering away with puzzles in his seventies.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 8 hours 32 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Tantor Audio

Audible.com Release Date: March 14, 2017

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B06XBQKW29

Best Sellers Rank: #55 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Science > Mathematics #87

in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Arts & Entertainment > Games #109 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Puzzles & Games > Math Games

## Customer Reviews

It's hard to overstate how exciting it is to follow young Mr. Scheffler on his quest to crack 20 seconds on the cube. Before reading this book I never thought that was possible, and then to learn that the best can do it so much faster....WOW! It blew my mind. As someone who long ago gave up hope of ever solving a rubiks cube, this book gave me the vicarious thrill of the solve and made me want to pick one up myself.

Great recreational read. You don't need to be a "cuber" (I've never solved the cube even once in my

life) to enjoy this. I met the young author at a book-signing and found him to be intelligent, genuine and friendly. I bought a book for myself and for other family members as gifts. Buy this book and support the up-and-coming authors like him!

A charming read, it sucks you in quickly and is well written. I think the best takeaway that nobody else has mentioned is that ultimately, anyone can learn to solve Rubik's Cube, but that in order to speedcube you need to work hard, study/practice, and get involved in the speedcuber community, where you'll learn so much more. This book is not a how-to on solving the puzzle or tips on how to do it faster, it is a means to inspire.

In this very entertaining book, journalist Ian Scheffler recounts his quest to achieve the nearly impossible of solving the Rubik's Cube in under 20 seconds. Along the way he seeks advice from numerous unusual but brilliant people from all around the world, from teenaged speedcubing prodigies to brilliant graduate students and grizzled veterans who have been solving the cube since the 80s. The most fascinating person he encounters is the elusive inventor of the cube, Ernő Rubik himself. Whether you are a cubing addict, or someone who has never solved the cube, this is a fascinating and enjoyable read.

I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book. As someone who is new to cubing, I really enjoyed reading about Ian's experiences at various competitions all over the world. The really great thing about cubing, and something I think is illustrated quite well in this book, is it's not you versus someone. It's you and everyone else against Rubik's Cube. Everyone is so willing to help others that it makes for a very special community.

I enjoyed this book like a child enjoys a candy. In this book, Ian not only shares with his readers his pursuit of a dreamed achievement, but he also encourages anyone with enough passion to follow his path beyond the limit of speedsolving the Rubik's cube under the 20 seconds. In his way down this limit, Ian deploys a very professional journalist work meeting, introducing and documenting all the main characters involved in the world of speedcubing. Like a Marlow searching his Kurtz, Ian travels all the connections down to Ernő Rubik himself, for a brief and exciting meeting. But the professor gives Ian more questions than answers...A book for all us who stares at the cube, its challenging simplicity, its mysterious beauty.

I bought this for my 16 year old Grandson for Christmas. He loves it!!

Good stories about great people. Just worth reading.

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