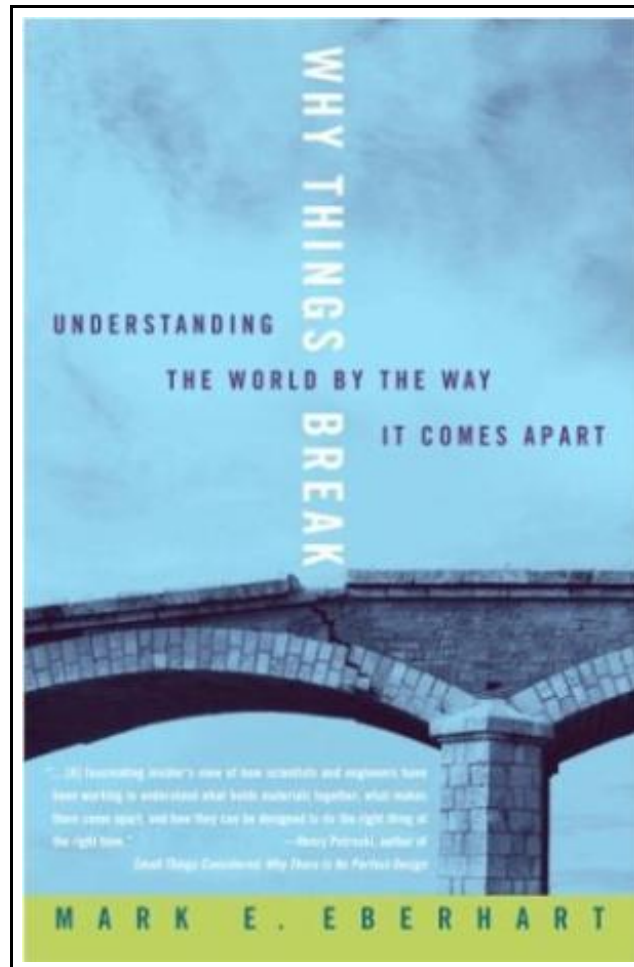


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(Odie Dicki)

WHY THINGS BREAK: UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD BY THE WAY IT COMES APART (PAPERBACK)



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Random House USA Inc, United States, 2005. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Reprint. 213 x 132 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. Did you know It took more than an iceberg to sink the Titanic. The Challenger disaster was predicted. Unbreakable glass dinnerware had its origin in railroad lanterns. A football team cannot lose momentum. Mercury thermometers are prohibited on airplanes for a crucial reason. Kryptonite bicycle locks are easily broken. Things fall apart is more than a poetic insight it is a fundamental property of the physical world. Why Things Break explores the fascinating question of what holds things together (for a while), what breaks them apart, and why the answers have a direct bearing on our everyday lives. When Mark Eberhart was growing up in the 1960s, he learned that splitting an atom leads to a terrible explosion which prompted him to worry that when he cut into a stick of butter, he would inadvertently unleash a nuclear cataclysm. Years later, as a chemistry professor, he remembered this childhood fear when he began to ponder the fact that we know more about how to split an atom than we do about how a pane of glass breaks. In Why Things Break, Eberhart leads us on a remarkable and entertaining exploration of all the cracks, clefts, fissures, and faults examined in the field of materials science and the many astonishing discoveries that have been made about everything from the explosion of the space shuttle Challenger to the crashing of your hard drive. Understanding why things break is crucial to modern life on every level, from personal safety to macroeconomics, but as Eberhart reveals here, it is also an area of cutting-edge science that is as provocative as it is illuminating. An engaging personal account not just of the physics...

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