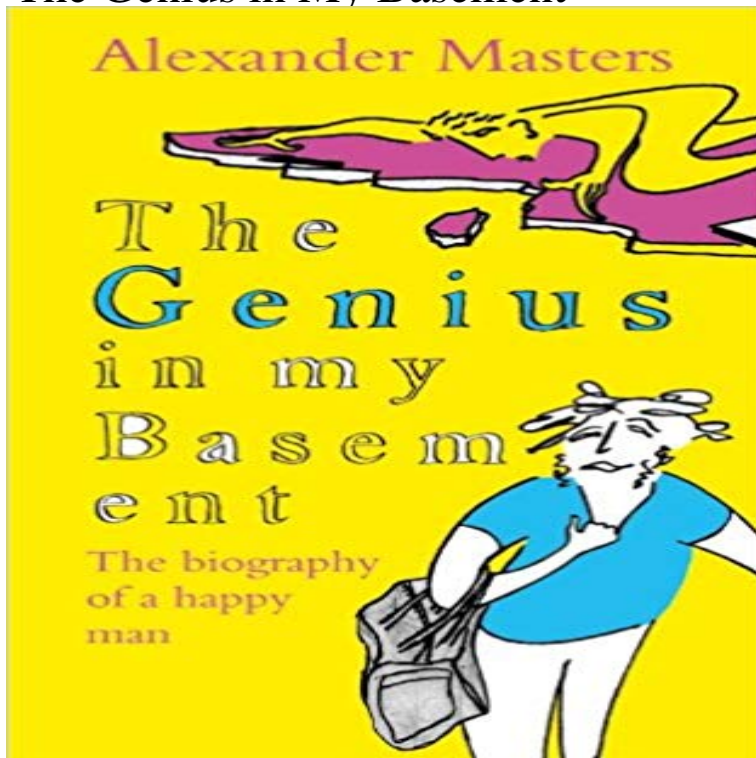


The Genius in My Basement



An intimate portrait of an everyday genius. As Aristotle understood it, there is no great genius without a mixture of madness and he may well have had a point: Einstein routinely forgot his way home when out walking the streets of Vienna, Nietzsche wound up in an insane asylum and Bobby Fischer, the chess prodigy, now scrambles around the world, seeking residency in any country reckless enough to let him through immigration. Simon Philips Norton, the subject of *The Genius in my Basement*, is not mad - not by a long shot - but he is certainly mixed up. At one time he was considered one of the greatest prodigies of contemporary mathematics, his breakthrough work on a group of numbers nicknamed the Monster inspired, and was acclaimed by, the international maths community for many years. These days he spends most of his time colouring in road atlases, tracing the paths of bus routes he has travelled upon all over the country, sheltering amongst a tower of unwashed pans and eating smoked kippers straight from a tin in his messy (as Simon calls it) basement flat in Cambridge. In *The Genius in my Basement*, Alexander Masters, the award-winning and best-selling author of *Stuart: A Life Backwards*, offers a tender, humorous and intimate portrait of genius at its most ordinary and at its most blurred. He enters us into the extraordinary life of one of the would-be contenders - an everyday mastermind - and in doing so, reveals the cruel burdens, as well as the glorious rewards, of a life marked by brilliance.

:Customer reviews: *The Genius in My Basement* The moment that made a success of Alexander Masters's first book, *Stuart: A Life Backwards*, is described in its opening pages. Masters's *The Genius in my Basement*: : Alexander Masters - 19 min - Uploaded by 5x15 Stories September 19th 2011, The Tabernacle Alexander Masters is the author of *Stuart: a Life* Simon: *The Genius in My Basement*, by Alexander Masters - The Alexander Masters does not much care for regular biography. His first book made this quite clear *Stuart: A Life Backwards* triumphantly *The Genius in My Basement* by Alexander Masters - review Books Buy Simon: *The Genius in my Basement* by Alexander Masters

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