

The Devil in the Detail

Van Halen

From Wikipedia:

Van Halen is an American rock band ...credited with "restoring hard rock to the forefront of the music scene"... Van Halen is known for its energetic live shows...

Van Halen consisted of Eddie Van Halen; Eddie's brother, drummer Alex Van Halen; vocalist David Lee Roth; and bassist Michael Anthony.

Roth is often credited with promoting Van Halen's image as the quintessential rock band, one devoted to a lifestyle described by David Fricke in Rolling Stone as "a nonstop booze-and-babes party train".



Brown M&M's

Members of the band were known for a flashy lifestyle and eccentric behaviour like throwing TV from penthouse suites ...while still plugged into multiple extension cords.

Van Halen's lead singer, David Lee Roth was extremely moody, temperamental and showed boundless egomania—insisting that there must be a bowl of M&M's backstage before each show with all the brown ones removed.

This was even put in their concert contracts.

There were instances when David Lee Roth was reported to have freaked out on seeing a single brown M&M, trashing the dressing room and cancelling the concert.



Van Halen's Safety Record

In addition to the high quality of their music and tantrums, the group was known for highly glitzy technical wizardry of their on-stage shows.

They toured more than any other major rock group, going to small and mid-sized towns too in massive trucks. In spite of touring extensively, having more heavy duty electrical equipment, and relying on less established production companies—who they had never met or used earlier—Van Halen had an excellent safety record.

They never had accidents in any of their concerts.

What explains this excellent safety record?

Attention to Detail

Attention to Detail

The brown M&M clause served as a check.

David Lee Roth, for all the diva like tantrums, had shrewdly inserted this clause to check how carefully the organizers and production crew read (and followed) the contract and instructions.

If they did not read the fine print carefully, he decided he could not trust them.



KnowDis Machine Learning Course

Entrance Test | Paper 2

Instructions:

- You should not attempt question number three of Statistics and Probability section. Do not ask the invigilator about the need to answer or not answer this question; failure to comply could lead to disqualification.

The Selective Attention Test



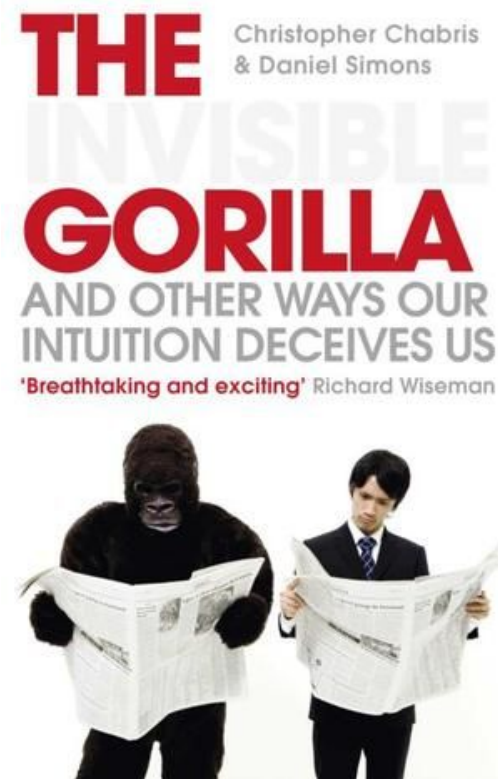
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vJG698U2Mvo>

The Invisible Gorilla

The experiment you just saw as a video is described in the book *The Invisible Gorilla: And Other Ways Our Intuition Deceives Us* by Christopher Chabris and Daniel Simons.

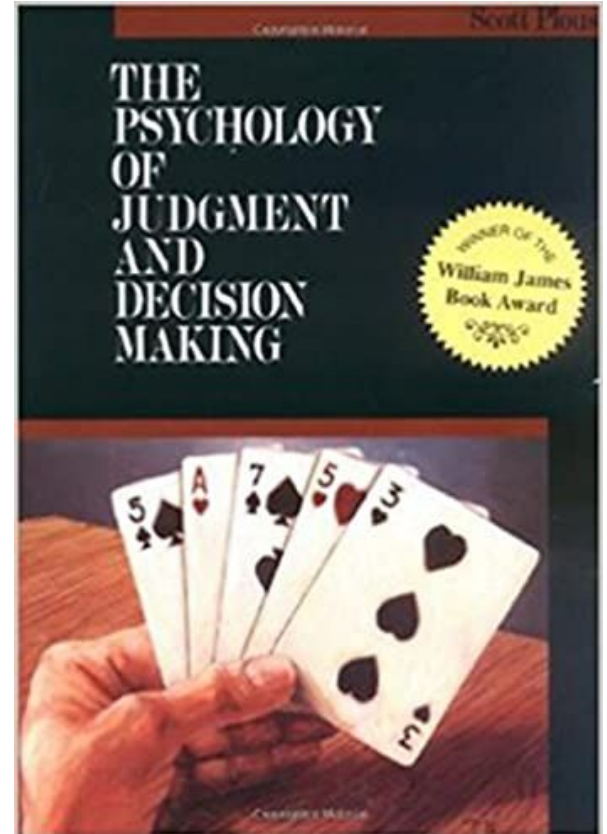
From the Introduction:

The Invisible Gorilla is a book about six everyday illusions that profoundly influence our lives: the illusions of attention, memory, confidence, knowledge, cause, and potential.



What was wrong in my opening slide?

- I had talked about the book by Scott Plous and you all had ample opportunity to look at the book cover.
- Did you notice something unusual?



Another Interesting Example

The "Door" Study
from Simons & Levin (1998)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FWSxSQsspiQ>

Coming soon...

A Workshop on

How to Think

and

How Not to Think!

