



Title: Improbable

Author: Adam Fawer

Description:

A compulsive gambler who is plagued by epileptic seizures, David Caine has dropped out of society, spending his time trolling underground poker clubs. When he agrees to try an experimental drug, Caine finds himself with the ability to foresee the consequences of his actions and the probability of various outcomes.

Reviews

Winston-Salem Journal: In case you are a person who reads only the first paragraph of a review, I want to get this out before you turn the page: *Improbable* is sophisticated fiction at its best. With absolutely no reservations, I assert that this is the most entertaining book I've read in the past five years. And believe me when I tell you -- I read a lot of books. I'll even go as far as to say that the entertainment value of *Improbable* equals the combined value of half the books I've read in that time. Now, about the story: Using the limited third-person point of view, Adam Fawer leads us through the story piecemeal as our viewpoint characters shift from scene to scene. This method allows us to experience and re-experience scenes from different angles, all the while gaining insights into the thoughts and perceptions of the assorted characters. We share their frustrations, victories and defeats; we see their delusions, and we're privy to their deepest fears, wishes and motivations. Sometimes we're cognizant of their misunderstandings at the moment, and sometimes we realize these misunderstandings only later once we've gained a better understanding ourselves. This is no simple piece of linear-time fiction. Besides experiencing this story through the perceptions of 19 humans and a pigeon, we are whisked through the timeline with side trips into flashbacks, flashforwards, excursions into alternate realities and a state of time/space referred to as Everywhen. This novel is first and foremost a thriller. But, along with the more conventional mainstream format, Fawer has masterfully incorporated elements of science fiction with enlightening snippets about history, statistics and philosophy. And he has done it in such a way as to make it understandable and enjoyable for readers who may have no background in any of these disciplines and who don't normally consider themselves fans of science fiction. The plot is a tangle of relationships, red herrings and conspiracies. The concepts put forth will have you questioning the nature of reality, the line between genius and insanity, and the choices you've made in life all while you accompany Caine and Vaner in their struggle against those who would destroy them. Once you've started, if you think you will be able to put this book down, I have one word for you. *Improbable*. **Clive Cussler:** *Improbable* is not the word.

"Spellbinding" is more like it. Adam Fawer has crafted a creative masterpiece of intrigue and adventure.

People: In Fawer's thrill-inducing debut, gambling addict David Caine tries to raise cash by signing on to take an experimental pill that might control his epileptic seizures. The drug has a side effect: Caine starts seeing the future. The government, a crazy scientist and North Korean spies will do anything to control his power so it's up to an unlikely trio to keep Caine alive: his schizophrenic twin brother; a deadly rogue CIA agent; and Doc, Caine's old college adviser. By the

tale's end, you'll be pondering the true causes of schizophrenia and marveling at how much a single action can change a life. *Improbable* is a thriller you can bet the house on. **Caleb Carr, author of the *The Alienist*:** Adam Fawer's *Improbable* is a remarkable novel that combines a gritty, expert plot with serious ideas and speculations. A skillful, fascinating debut. **Richmond Times-Dispatch:** One of the most complex, fresh, and enjoyable novels of its type to come along in a while. **Ben Mezrich, author of *Bringing Down the House*:** I was hooked from the first sentence ... *Improbable* is an ingenious melding of thought-provoking mathematical theories and thriller mayhem. A truly great read.