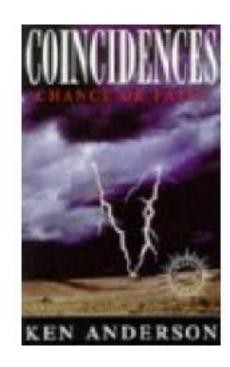
## Coincidences: Chance or Fate?



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著者:

出版者:

出版时间:

装帧:

isbn:9780713725230

The material presented here amounts to what is believed to be<br/>br>the largest collection of coincidences yet gathered in one book.<br/>br>lt comes from a wide variety of sources: my own research over<br/>br>a number of years; readers of my previous books on the<br/>br>subject, my daily newspaper column and articles; radio and TV<br/>audiences who have phoned or written as result of my appear-<br/>br>ing on a show; and acquaintances, friends and colleagues. For<br/>br>the help of all these generous people I am most grateful.<br/>br> I-towever, the book is not merely a co~ection o~<br/>ascinating<br/>br>anecdotes and the like. It attempts to look at the thorny<br/>br>question of the meaning- if any- of coincidences in, I hope, as<br/>br>objective a way as possible.<br/>br> As the philosopher Arthur Schopenhauer wrote, the real<br/>significance of coincidences exists only in relation to the<br/>br>individual who

experiences them; for other people, for whom<br/>
these coincidences pass unnoticed<br/>
br >into the background of everyday life. Like most unqualified<br/>
br >assertions, though, this is not totally correct. As we shall see,<br/>
br >there are many coincidences involving others that cannot but<br/>
br >fail to impress the rest of us.<br/>
on this point, it is often argued that to dwell on trivial <br/>
br > coincidences when discussing the phenomenon is to belittle<br/>
br > the possible importance of significant coincidences. In this<br/>
br > book there are what many people would c~nsider a goodly<br/>
br > number of trivial coincidences rubbing shtl~lders with the<br/>
the<br/>
br > significant events. <br/>
br ><br/>
br > coincidences rubbing shtl~lders with

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