Everything Is Obvious How Common Sense Fails Us
everything is obvious how common sense fails us

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The novel opens with Aunt Polly scouring the house in search of her nephew, Tom Sawyer. She finds him in the closet, discovers that his hands are covered with jam, and prepares to give him a whipping. Tom cries out theatrically, "Look behind you!" and when Aunt Polly turns, Tom escapes over the fence. After Tom is gone, Aunt Polly reflects sadly on Tom's mischievous and how she lets him get away with too much.

Tom comes home at supper. He has a tale to tell, a little adventure that will be skipped over. Aunt Polly is satisfied. Daring supper, Aunt Polly asks Tom how the school was and how the boys behaved. Aunt Polly is satisfied. Tom has learned that the school is still more and greater. Tom and the new arrival are welcomed with kind words. The boys declare Tom's story to be the best and the finest. Tom is pleased with the applause.

When he returns home in the evening, Tom finds Aunt Polly waiting for him. She notices his dirtied clothes and resolves to make him work the next day, a Saturday, as punishment.

On Saturday morning, Aunt Polly sends Tom out to whitewash the fence. Jim passes by, and Tom tries to get him to do some of the whitewashing in return for a "white alley," a kind of whiteboard. Jim almost agrees, but Aunt Polly appears and chases him off, leaving Tom alone with his task.
The novel opens with Aunt Polly scouring the house in search of her nephew, Tom Sawyer. She finds him in the closet, discovers that his hands are covered with jam, and prepares to give him a whipping. Tom cries out theatrically, “Look behind you!” and when Aunt Polly turns, Tom escapes over the fence. After Tom is gone, Aunt Polly reflects sadly on Tom’s mischievous and how she lets him get away with too much.

Tom comes home at supper time. He explains that he was only skipping school that afternoon and will make up the work the next day. He adds that his father is still away from home, but will soon be back, and Tom’s half-brother, Joe Harper, has sworn the boy himself to disguise him from his father. Tom goes out of the house to have a smoke. While wandering the streets of St. Petersburg, Tom encounters a man who has witnessed an accident and eventually chose the witnesses all the way home.

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The Author. Duncan Watts is a principal researcher at Microsoft Research and a founding member
of the MSR-NYC lab.

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The Myth of Common Sense: Why Everything That Seems Obvious Isn't Posted on October 5, 2014
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The Myth of Common Sense: Why Everything That Seems ...

If you think the answers to these questions are a matter of common sense, think again. As
sociologist and network science pioneer Duncan Watts explains in this provocative book, the
explanations that we give for the outcomes that we observe in life—explanation that seem obvious
once we know the answer—are less useful than they seem.
Everything is obvious how common sense fails us.

His second book, *Everything is Obvious: Once You Know the Answer*, explains common errors people make when making decisions especially for groups or organizations, and suggests alternative methods using research and data. He also presents some of his research from Yahoo and Microsoft.

This is a guest post by Duncan Watts, a principal research scientist at Yahoo! Labs, and the author of *Everything is Obvious: Once You Know The Answer*. The Myth of Common Sense: Why The Social World Is Less Obvious Than It Seems By Duncan Watts

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Everything Is Obvious Ryan Abbott Professor of Law and Health Sciences, University of Surrey School of Law and Adjunct Assistant Professor, David Geffen School of Medicine at University of California, Los Angeles 66 UCLA L. Rev. 2 (2019 )

"Common sense is a kind of bespoke make-believe, and we can no more use it to scientifically explain the workings of the social world than we can use a hammer to understand mollusks." - Nicholas Christakis, The New York Times

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Amazon.com: Everything Is Obvious: *Once You Know the Answer*

"It seems obvious, for example, that people respond to incentives; yet policy makers and managers alike frequently fail to anticipate how people will respond to the incentives they create. Social trends often seem to have been driven by certain influential people; yet marketers have been unable..." - Duncan Watts

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