



# THE MAN WHO LOVED ONLY NUMBERS

'Hoffman's playful, plainspoken and often hilarious biography of a monkish, impish, generous genius is purest pleasure.' *Mail on Sunday*

PAUL HOFFMAN

# CONTENTS

---

0

THE TWO-AND-A-HALF-BILLION-YEAR-OLD MAN 3

1

STRAIGHT FROM THE BOOK 25

2

EPSZI'S ENIGMA 59

e

PROBLEMS WITH SAM AND JOE 95

3

EINSTEIN VS. DOSTOYEVSKY 131

$\pi$

DR. WORST CASE 145

4

MARGINAL REVENGE 179

5

"GOD MADE THE INTEGERS" 203

CONTENTS

6

GETTING THE GOAT 233

7

SURVIVORS' PARTY 247

∞

"WE MATHEMATICIANS ARE ALL  
A LITTLE BIT CRAZY" 265

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND SOURCE NOTES 269

BIBLIOGRAPHY 279

INDEX 289