



Seeing Dark Things: The Philosophy of Shadows

By Roy Sorensen

Oxford University Press. Paperback. Condition: New. 328 pages. Dimensions: 8.5in. x 5.5in. x 0.9in. If a spinning disk casts a round shadow does this shadow also spin When you experience the total blackness of a cave, are you seeing in the dark Or are you merely failing to see anything (just like your blind companion) Seeing Dark Things uses visual riddles to explore our ability to see things that do not reflect light. Shadows and holes are anomalies for the causal theory of perception, which states that anything we see must be a cause of what we see. This requirement neatly explains why you see the front of a books jacket and not its rear when you look at it face-on. However, the causal theory has trouble explaining how you manage to see the black letters on its surface. The letters are made visible by the light they fail to reflect rather than by the light they reflect. Nevertheless, Roy Sorensen defends the causal theory of perception by treating absences as causes. His fourteen chapters draw heavily on common sense and psychology to vindicate the assumption that we perceive absences. Seeing Dark Things is philosophy for the eye. It contains fifty-nine...

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