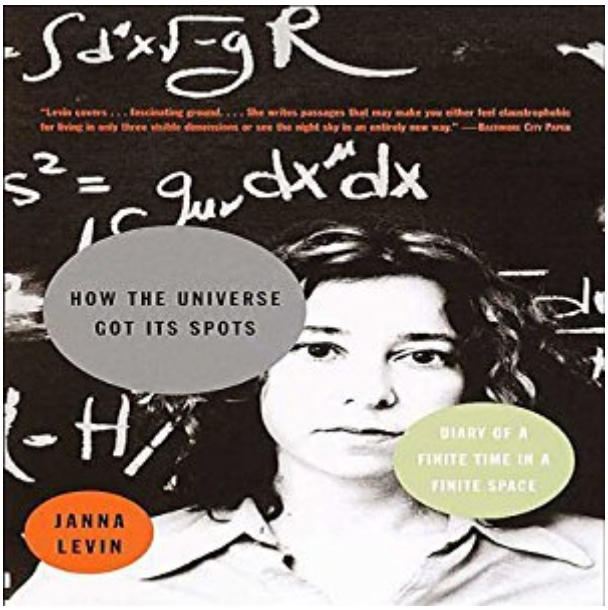
How The Universe Got Its Spots: Diary Of A Finite Time In A Finite Space



Synopsis

Is the universe infinite or just really big? With this question, the gifted young cosmologist Janna Levin not only announces the central theme of her intriguing and controversial new book but establishes herself as one of the most direct and unorthodox voices in contemporary science. For even as she sets out to determine how big Ã¢â ¬Å“really bigÃ¢â ¬Â• may be, Levin gives us an intimate look at the day-to-day life of a globe-trotting physicist, complete with jet lag and romantic disturbances.Nimbly synthesizing geometry, topology, chaos and string theories, Levin shows how the pattern of hot and cold spots left over from the big bang may one day reveal the size and shape of the cosmos. She does so with such originality, lucidityÃ¢â ¬â •and even poetryÃ¢â ¬â •that How the Universe Got Its Spots becomes a thrilling and deeply personal communication between a scientist and the lay reader. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

After listening to an interview with Janna Levin on the NPR program Speaking of Faith, I became interested in reading her books. Levin is an astrophysicist and author interested in sharing her interest in topics from quantum mechanics to a Theory of Everything.In the book How the Universe Got Its Spots, Levin uses a diary/letter style to explain contemporary theoretical physics in a way that is accessible to a layperson like me. She weaves the science through stories from everyday life. Her engaging writing style and excellent examples makes complex topics such as Einstein's theories easier to understand. It's interesting to learn how much we know and how much we still don't know about our universe. Is the universe finite or infinite? We really don't know.One of the

most amazing aspects of the book is her interest in cosmic archaeology which examines the patterns of hot spots left over from the big bang. I was also fascinated by her explanations of topology and geometry of the universe. I've always been interested in the idea of more than three dimensions, but it wasn't until I read this book that I began to understand how these other dimensions might work.It's been nearly a decade since this book was written. I look forward to reading her newer, award-winning book titled A Madman Dreams of Turing Machines.Here's one of my favorite quotes from the book:ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â¦there are no walls built in the human mind making some of us scientists and some of us artist. They are branches of the same tree, rooted in a common human essence. Maybe itÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s our ability to step between the different disciplines, weaving strange loops all the while, thatÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s the core of our creativity.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• (p. 193)

OK this book is written differently than most other physics or science books I've read. Its not all fact after fact and science science science. The book is written like a journal, with stories about the author's personal life mixed in with her science exploits. So be prepared for that! But the writing is good and the science and math is fun to learn about. Honestly, I had to get about a third of the way through the book before I fully accepted the fact that this book is different. But I didn't want to put it down, kept me up late at night many times finishing the read. Thanks Janna Levin!

Janna Levin has a gift for explaining complex ideas. She intersperses a fair amount of personal anecdote, which makes the book more interesting. The personal reflections do not detract from the science. Rather, these reflections help craft a narrative lens and move the book forward.

As you read Prof. Levin's writing you will wish she were your professor. Her writing style flows while emphasizing the guiding ideas or thought experiments of modern physics, illustrating a bit of her research and demonstrating how spots could form in our universe. Equations are not used because the initiating idea is where the paradigm changes and a revolution begins. Professors Janna Levin and Albert Einstein are adept at these questions, ideas and thought experiments. Equations and experiments follow to test whether their hypotheses are consistent with existing science or are revolutionary. HOW THE UNIVERSE GOT ITS SPOTS is an interesting, short little book which will give you an understanding of the universe and how creative theoretical physicists discover...

Engaging short letters explaining the universe. Painless, entertaining learning about what often is a

dreary rendering of a fascinating topic.The audio book is excellent as is the printed book. Both make the subject intimate and personal.

Not your typical science book. This one is written originally as letters to the author’s mother, where she explains some interesting detail of the universe and her research. As a female scientist, I appreciated the glimpse of Dr. Levin’s struggles with personal relationships as well.

Great read ao far, I like her style and free-flowing use of intelect. She weaves stories of mathematicians with philosophical perspectives and humor into enjoyable sentences. "It was not his first suicide attempt, however, it was his most successful..."

Would have made a great PhD thesis in the sociology department. How theoretical physics really works

Greenwell & Ritchey, The Applied Calculus & Finite Math Series) Classic Journal (Diary, Notebook): Classic Journal / Writing Notebook / Blank Diary - 210 Pages, 7" x 10", Hardcover Journal-diary gift. Minecraft: Diary of a Minecraft Ender Dragon: Legendary Minecraft Diary. An Unnoficial Minecraft Book for Kids Age 6 12 (Minecraft Diary of a Wimpy, Books For Kids Ages 4-6, 6-8, 9-12) Minecraft: Diary of a Dorky Zombie: The Dorky Steve Minecraft diary adventure begins... (Unofficial Minecraft Book (Minecraft, Minecraft Secrets, Minecraft ... Books For Kids, Minecraft Books, Diary 1) The Universe in Your Hand: A Journey Through Space, Time, and Beyond The Unknown Universe: A New Exploration of Time, Space and Cosmology