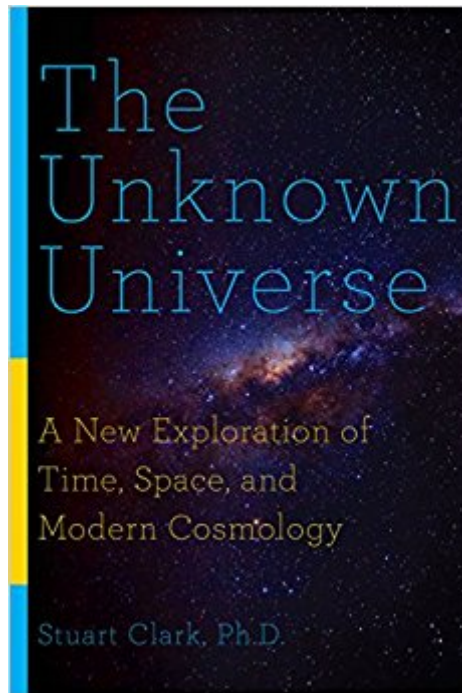


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The Unknown Universe: A New Exploration Of Time, Space, And Modern Cosmology



Synopsis

A groundbreaking guide to the universe and how our latest deep-space discoveries are forcing us to revisit what we know and what we don't. On March 21, 2013, the European Space Agency released a map of the afterglow of the Big Bang. Taking in 440 sextillion kilometres of space and 13.8 billion years of time, it is physically impossible to make a better map: we will never see the early universe in more detail. On the one hand, such a view is the apotheosis of modern cosmology, on the other, it threatens to undermine almost everything we hold cosmologically sacrosanct. The map contains anomalies that challenge our understanding of the universe. It will force us to revisit what is known and what is unknown, to construct a new model of our universe. This is the first book to address what will be an epoch-defining scientific paradigm shift. Stuart Clark will ask if Newton's famous laws of gravity need to be rewritten; if dark matter and dark energy are just celestial phantoms? Can we ever know what happened before the Big Bang? What's at the bottom of a black hole? Are there universes beyond our own? Does time exist? Are the once immutable laws of physics changing?

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Customer Reviews

This is a most enjoyable and informative journey through the history and accomplishments of cosmology. You marvel at the brilliance of those who explored the mysteries of space. How in the world did Kepler, early in the 1600s, detect the elliptical trajectory of planets and the law of $\frac{1}{r^2}$ that governs their varying speed? How in the 18th century did they figure out the speed of light? If they asked you today to calculate the gravity laws governing the orbits of celestial bodies – la Isaac Newton, could you do that? It is almost incomprehensible how human brains determined the distance between Earth and the Sun, the fusion of hydrogen into helium as the solar power source, or the bending of light waves by massive gravity – and prove it! And then, in the 20th century, the scientific acrobatics go entirely beyond ordinary humans' wits, with such items as quantum leaps, Einstein's space-time continuum, gravitationally collapsed objects tens of thousands of lightyears away, the accelerating expansion of the universe and, in reverse counting, the exact timing of the "Day without Yesterday", the Big Bang, at 13.8 billion of years ago. Don't think, however, ordinary folks could not find pleasure in this collection of astronomical facts. On the contrary, in this awesome chronicle Stuart Clark's narrative is quite entertaining in adding the human story of the astronomers' ambitions, stubbornness, impediments and even international rivalry. In fact, the book is so rich in information that I read it twice, not to overlook any of the pearls.

I was looking for a layman's explanation of dark matter and dark energy, and this came up on the search. This is actually more of an historic review of the science involved than the actual science, but it is a well written book that gives a good foundation.

I used to be an engineer and now retired with a desire to relearn some of the physics and astronomy that weren't taught when I went to school in the 60s. I usually don't buy books without a bunch of math but after perusing it I had to read it. The title is very appropriate for this book. It is a very good review of what's happened in cosmology and to some degree what we don't know and what we need to know. The last two paragraphs are right on but don't read them until you finish the book. I'm going to reread the last few chapters and then look for books with lots of math that are as well written and understandable. Any tips appreciated Hank. PS My first review on

Very easy reading and no formulas cloud the reader. I highly recommend this book for the lay person who wants to learn about modern cosmology.

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