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Human Universe



Synopsis

Human life is a staggeringly strange thing. On the surface of a ball of rock falling around a nuclear fireball in the blackness of a vacuum, the laws of nature conspired to create a naked ape that can look up at the stars and wonder where it came from. What is a human being? Objectively, nothing of consequence. Particles of dust in an infinite arena, present for an instant in eternity. Clumps of atoms in a universe with more galaxies than people. Yet a human being is necessary for the question itself to exist, and the presence of a question in the universe - any question - is the most wonderful thing. Questions require minds, and minds bring meaning. What is meaning? I don't know, except that the universe and every pointless speck inside it means something to me. I am astonished by the existence of a single atom and find my civilisation to be an outrageous imprint on reality. I don't understand it. Nobody does, but it makes me smile. This book asks questions about our origins, our destiny, and our place in the universe. We have no right to expect answers; we have no right to even ask. But ask and wonder we do. Human Universe is first and foremost a love letter to humanity - a celebration of our outrageous fortune in existing at all. I have chosen to write my letter in the language of science, because there is no better demonstration of our magnificent ascent from dust to paragon of animals than the exponentiation of knowledge generated by science. Two million years ago we were apemen. Now we are spacemen. That has happened, as far as we know, nowhere else. That is worth celebrating.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Wonderful account of all things science and humanity from a purely materialistic world view. Leaves lots of unanswered questions, but poses these questions with a scientific mind that gets you thinking. Highly recommended.

I learned a great deal and feel propelled to investigate even more about the wonders of our cosmos. The acquiring and the restitution of knowledge is the best we can do for the future of the universe and the human race. As Dan Dennett once said " we are the the nervous system of the universe" and as such we have a great responsibility...I recommend this book to every curious guy on this planet and of course to every politician : it's never too late for them to realise what life is all about...

A good addition to any science nerd's bookshelf, the book weaves together nicely with the video series, communicated in a way that's gentle and insightful and even at times.....downright magical.

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Brian Cox's enthusiasm is infectious! He loves astronomy and all of his readers will too. His forays into the meaning of all this for humanity are worthy. It is a pleasant read with an inspiring message.

Brian Cox has given us a book full of his hopes and dreams, and though they are personally and uniquely his, they are ones we all share. He reflects back to us our own human spirit in his questful musings. Well done, Professor.

A wonderful story of what the human mind is capable of.If it has taken billions of years to get us to today, what are humans capable of in the next few years?Can the be more exponential advancement?

This was purchased as a gift but the recipient was pleased and excited after reading the back cover.

I would VERY highly recommend any video by Professor Brian Cox. Engaging and fascinating...

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