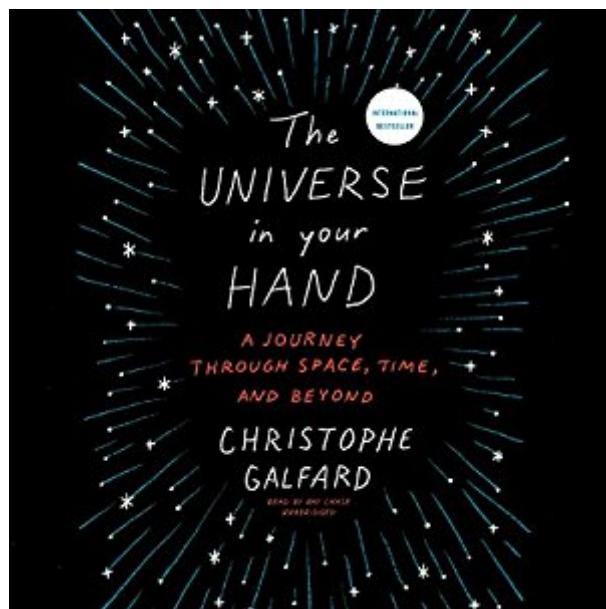


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The Universe In Your Hand: A Journey Through Space, Time, And Beyond



Synopsis

Stephen Hawking's protégé and cowriter lifts the veil on the mysteries of our universe in a style that is wonderfully direct. Quantum physics, black holes, string theory, the big bang, dark matter, dark energy, parallel universes: Even if we are interested in these fundamental concepts of our world, their language is the language of math. Which means that despite our best intentions of finally grasping, say, Einstein's theory of general relativity, most of us are quickly brought up short by a snarl of nasty equations or an incomprehensible graph. Christophe Galfard's mission in life is to spread modern scientific ideas to the general public in entertaining ways. Using his considerable skills as a brilliant theoretical physicist and successful young-adult author, *The Universe in Your Hand* employs the immediacy of simple, direct language to show us, not explain to us, the theories that underpin everything we know about our universe. To understand what happens to a dying star, we are asked to picture ourselves floating in space in front of it. To get acquainted with the quantum world, we are shrunk to the size of an atom and then taken on a journey. Employing everyday similes and metaphors, addressing the listener directly, and writing stories rather than equations renders these astoundingly complex ideas in an immediate and visceral way. Utterly captivating and entirely unique, *The Universe in Your Hand* will find its place among other classics in the field.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Would you like to live forever without aging? At the speed of light time freezes, so that if you could travel at this speed (186,000 miles per second), you might have a chance. Except for two things: Light has no mass, which is why it can go so fast. You presumably, like me, have mass. (I have

about 20 pounds too much but that is another story.) Secondly, even if you did not have any mass and could travel that fast you would still age as normal. Oh well, it was a nice idea. For other nice (and even weird) ideas read *The Universe in Your Hand* by Christophe Galfard. Galfard is a protégé of Stephen Hawking and says that he has written the book in simple terms that anyone can understand, including only one formula, Einstein's famous $E=MC^2$ squared. Simple for him maybe but my eyes glazed over within the first 100 pages. Galfard divides the book into seven parts covering such topics as The Cosmos, Making Sense of Outer Space, Fast, the Quantum World, the Origins of Space and Time, Unexpected Mysteries and A Step Beyond What is Known. The author takes the reader on various trips in an effort to explain these concepts in more layman terms. Here is a sample: "First you will have another look at the quantum fields that fill our universe and you will see that, despite what I have told you so far, they make absolutely no sense." Then you will meet a cat, which is both dead and alive, and you will, if you follow it at all, not understand anything anymore. • For every pound of matter in the universe there are five pounds of dark matter. But then there is this quote about dark matter: "And dark matter is not matter. It is not antimatter. It is something else. No one knows what." • Well you have been warned.

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