

The Accidental Universe

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in the accidental universe physicist and novelist alan lightman explores the emotional and philosophical questions raised by discoveries in science focusing most intently on the human condition and the needs of humankind here in a collection of exhilarating essays lightman shows us our own universe from a series of fascinating and diverse perspectives he takes on the difficult dialogue between science and religion the conflict between our human desire for permanence and the impermanence of nature the possibility that our universe is simply an accident the manner in which modern technology has divorced us from enjoying a direct experience of the world and our resistance to the view that our bodies and minds can be explained by scientific logic and laws alone with his customary passion precision lyricism and imagination in the accidental universe alan lightman leaves us with the suggestion heady and humbling that what we see and understand of the world and ourselves is only a

tiny piece of the extraordinary perhaps unfathomable whole praise for alan lightman a gem of a novel that is strange witty erudite and alive with lightman s playful genius junot diaz it would not seem possible for alan lightman to match his earlier tour de force einstein s dreams but in mr g he has done so with wit imagination and transcendent beauty anita desai

this book is a survey of the range of apparently miraculous accidents of nature that have enabled the universe to evolve its familiar structures atoms stars galaxies and life itself concludes with an investigation of the so called anthropic principle

given the excellent historical context in which corey frames his case and the rational manner in which he closes off the loopholes the stage is set for paradigm shift in the secular area i highly recommend this book hugh ross astronomer

something old something new contemporary entanglements of religion and secularity offers a fresh perspective on debates surrounding religious and secular thinking in each chapter wayne glausser focuses on a topic of contemporary relevance in which something old the sacrament of extreme unction greek rhetorical tropes scholastic theology entangles with something new psilocybin therapy for the dying the new atheism cognitive science glausser uses the term entanglement to describe his distinctive approach to the relationship between religion and secularity the concept of entanglement refers to a contentious but oddly intimate relationship in which secular ideas compete with corresponding religious convictions but neither side wins by displacing the other as traditional religious knowledge and values come into conflict with their secular counterparts the old ideas undergo stress and adaptation but the influence works in both directions whether they do so consciously or unconsciously entangled secularists engage with and sometimes borrow from older paradigms they believe they have surpassed something old something new takes an unusual approach to this popular debate and offers a new perspective in the conversation between believers and secularists this is a book that theists atheists agnostics and everyone still searching for the right label will find respectful but provocative

modern science has proven that reality is precisely designed to use a multilayered network of information processing systems to sculpt an immortal force we call energy into intelligent beings you are this immortal force bought to life as the ultimate information processing system to perceive explore and revel in the beauty of this design science has proven that both the physical and mental dimensions of reality are information processing systems from top to bottom these layers of interlocking information processing systems are so complex intricate and precise that it can easily be shown that it is mathematically impossible that this magnificent design could be the

result of a series of incredibly fortunate random accidents the book discusses the mystical beauty and elegant complexity of the entire design that modern science has actually discovered from the bizarre choreography of the subatomic world to the necessity and beauty of consciousness our mental superpowers and the glory of the mental dimension that we create and inhabit faced with this scientific proof of intelligent design atheists have scrambled to protect their worldview they have had to totally abandon our scientific knowledgebase and are currently hiding behind a diversionary smokescreen they have dreamt up that ridiculously claims that everything happens somewhere in an infinity of other universes that they have imagined the author who had been an atheist for most of his life presents a compelling easy to read argument that all of modern science s evidence describes an intelligently designed multilayered information processing system with a beautiful purpose you

volume two outlines in thorough but understandable fashion other scientific evidence for recent special creation with no reference to scripture

at the heart of by design are two inter related movements one is the science and religion dialogue which stretches from the laboratories of nobelists to inner sancta of the vatican this dialogue attempts to build bridges between two worlds formerly thought to be implacably hostile and incompatible the other is the intelligent design movement which by reviving a natural theology of design in nature has challenged the darwinian strongholds in science and public education larry witham introduces some of the most colorful characters in these movements and summarizes the scientific developments that have made this dramatic new dialogue possible

towards the end of his life the author concentrated on his early interests in religion and science learning of developments in modern physics and science the essays in this book represent that work mapping out a number of scientific issues relevant to both scientists and theologians amazon com

drawing on previously unpublished as well as newly discovered scientific data this crucial work provides proof that the supernatural exists in everyday life arguing that mainstream scientists have imposed parameters on the human mind this revolutionary book presents a case for why unexplained mystical and supernatural events need to be seriously examined providing parallels between modern science religion and a variety of healing modalities it provides evidence for the truths of telepathy out of body and near death experiences reincarnation hypnosis astrology and hands on healing appealing to both believers and the skeptics the evidence forces a rethinking of supernatural phenomena and offers research the mainstream scientific community cannot deny

this new collection of essays continues the same theme which Jaki frequently addresses that of the development of intellectual strategy to protect the worth of the human being in a scientific and technological age the physicist theologian brings us face to face with relativism the only chaos and steers us clear of two philosophies physicalism in which increased quantification is supposed to bring us nearer to the source of knowledge and a bucolic humanism which decries technology while reaping its benefits Jaki's analyses are useful examples to students in the disciplines combatting deconstructionism the new historicism and cultural relativism co published with the intercollegiate studies institut

many scientists believe we are on the verge of a theory of everything a complete unification of all the fundamental forces and particles of nature in this book the physicist and author Paul Davies gives an account of the quest for a superforce that will explain how the physical universe is put together the book describes the bewildering array of subatomic particles that have been discovered in recent years and shows how their properties form abstract patterns and mathematical symmetries hinting at deep linkages it explains how the forces that act between these particles may require the existence of unseen extra dimensions of space and why the latest bizarre theory suggests that the basic entities out of which all matter is built may not be particles at all but strings aimed at the general reader this book shows that a unified theory may be within our grasp and that a single superforce may account not only for the nature of matter but even for the manner in which the universe came into existence

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