

The Unexpected Universe

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no one has ever managed to make the pursuit of knowledge feel more soulful or more immediate than loren eiseley ben cosgrove the daily beast at the height of a distinguished career as a paleontologist loren eiseley turned from

fieldwork and scientific publication to the personal essay here in the unexpected universe he displays his far reaching knowledge and searching curiosity about the natural world and the qualities that led many to hail him as a modern thoreau fascinating accounts of the journeys of odysseus captain cook and charles darwin frame eiseley s more modest wanderings as a suburban naturalist attentive to the lives of small creatures sometimes he travels no further than the local dump and yet like homer s hero or these great explorers he continually finds a universe not only queerer than we suppose but queerer than we can suppose

drawing from his long experience as a naturalist the author responds to the unexpected and symbolic aspects of a wide spectrum of phenomena throughout the universe scrupulous scholarship and magical prose are brought to bear on such diverse topics as seeds the hieroglyphs on shells lost tombs the goddess circe city dumps and neanderthal man

a naturalist explores the mystical symbolism of nature as he reflects upon man s evolution and scientific endeavor

what are the mysterious numbers that unlock the secrets of the universe in fantastic numbers and where to find them leading theoretical physicist and youtube star antonio padilla takes us on an irreverent cosmic tour of nine of the most extraordinary numbers in physics these include graham s number which is so large that if you thought about it in the wrong way your head would collapse into a singularity tree 3 whose finite value could never be reached before the universe reset itself and 10 120 which measures the desperately unlikely balance of energy the universe needs to exist leading us down the rabbit hole to the inner workings of reality padilla demonstrates how these unusual numbers are the key to unlocking such mind bending phenomena as black holes entropy and the problem of the cosmological constant which shows that our two best ways of understanding the universe contradict one another combining cutting edge science with an entertaining cosmic quest fantastic numbers and where to find them is an electrifying head twisting guide to the most fundamental truths of the universe

in toward a dialogue of understandings mary ellen pitts examines scientist loren eiseley s unique impact as a thinker

and writer

prophets have not done well in history at least not by ordinary standards elijah seemed to be the only one in israel resisting baalism amos was told to keep silent and go back where he came from jeremiah was scorned and imprisoned john the baptist was beheaded and jesus the greatest of them all was crucified by ordinary standards the prophets have not done well because as jesus said we ignore or kill the messengers of god and yet it is the extraordinary standards of the prophets that intrigue us inspire us and stimulate our minds and consciences to god s ways and thoughts because of their extraordinary standards the prophets continue to shape us and history in this challenging advent christmas book maurice a fetty reminds us again how it is important to profit from prophets maurice a fetty is senior minister of the congregational church of manhasset united church of christ in manhasset new york he has also served churches in grand rapids michigan minneapolis east harlem and brooklyn fetty holds the master of sacred theology degree from union theological seminary and the master of arts degree from christian theological seminary in addition to numerous articles he has authored several books including putting your life on the line sex love and marriage and the divine advocacy

this writing intends to rouse would be believers to faith or enhance the faith of others through the adventure of modern fiction while taking note of the secularity of our era the author insists the spirit of god has not departed the scene the opening poem by emily dickinson tell all the truth but tell it slant proposes the author s contention that the indirect discourse of fictional writers may welcome readers to faith s door in ways sermonic speech never did the modern authors chosen for this purpose are izak dinesen annie dillard kent haruf loren eiseley gary trudeau garrison keillor william golding walker percy frederick buechner and gabriel marcel having explained one work each by these noted authors the book closes by pointing to ways in which embedded faith may rise out of these pages to meet the reader where he or she lives

examines twelve questions exploring the way modern physicists view the world

a fun dazzling exploration of the strange numbers that illuminate the ultimate nature of reality for particularly brilliant theoretical physicists like james clerk maxwell paul dirac or albert einstein the search for mathematical truths led to strange new understandings of the ultimate nature of reality but what are these truths what are the mysterious numbers that explain the universe in fantastic numbers and where to find them the leading theoretical physicist and youtube star antonio padilla takes us on an irreverent cosmic tour of nine of the most extraordinary numbers in physics offering a startling picture of how the universe works these strange numbers include graham s number which is so large that if you thought about it in the wrong way your head would collapse into a singularity tree 3 whose finite nature can never be definitively proved because to do so would take so much time that the universe would experience a poincaré recurrence resetting to precisely the state it currently holds down to the arrangement of individual atoms and 10 120 measuring the desperately unlikely balance of energy needed to allow the universe to exist for more than just a moment to extend beyond the size of a single atom in other words the mystery of our unexpected universe leading us down the rabbit hole to a deeper understanding of reality padilla explains how these unusual numbers are the key to understanding such mind boggling phenomena as black holes relativity and the problem of the cosmological constant that the two best and most rigorously tested ways of understanding the universe contradict one another fantastic numbers and where to find them is a combination of popular and cutting edge science and a lively entertaining and even funny exploration of the most fundamental truths about the universe

every 3rd issue is a quarterly cumulation

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