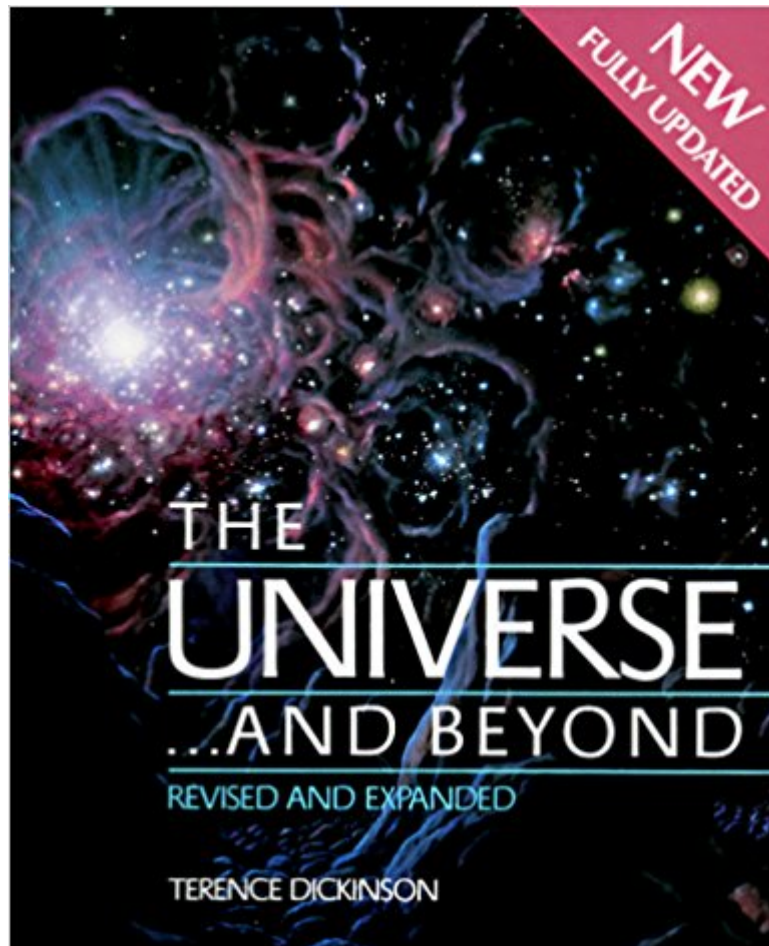




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The Universe...and Beyond



Synopsis

From the foreword of the fourth edition: "The Universe and Beyond is a celebration of the human spirit of exploration. It is a majestic voyage to the most distant realms we can imagine. Prepare yourself for a great adventure." -- Edward G. Gibson, Astronaut, Skylab 4

The Universe and Beyond is a fact-packed, up-to-date guide to the universe written by best-selling astronomy author Terence Dickinson. This new edition includes all the most recent astronomical discoveries and events and features imaginative astronomical illustrations and dramatic photography from the Hubble Space Telescope, space probes and the largest observatories on Earth. This fifth edition has been carefully revised and updated: The section on nearby stars has been significantly expanded to include new information about the planets of other stars, emphasizing the probability that, by 2020, several Earth-like planets will be discovered orbiting stars similar to our Sun. The controversial decision to drop Pluto from the solar system's roster of planets is fully explained. Newly discovered black holes and galaxy collisions are discussed. There are more than 50 new photographs of planets, moons, nebulae, galaxies and galaxy clusters. Every major aspect of modern astronomy technology is described in clear, non-mathematical language, and a special resource section lists books, associations and websites. The Universe and Beyond addresses the most common queries from those fascinated by the mystery and majesty of the cosmos. Brimming with color illustrations, this book is a one-stop guide to understanding the universe.

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Customer Reviews

Authors of introductory astronomy books strive to cover, in a single volume, an ancient yet dynamic

discipline whose scope literally spans the universe. Dickinson (Nightwatch: A Practical Guide to Viewing the Universe) and Nicolson (Heavenly Bodies) succeed in meeting this challenge. Both provide brief overviews of the universe and organize their work in traditional fashion, progressing from study of Earth and the moon to examination of more remote objects and thence to cosmology. Each book includes data obtained as recently as 1998. Both authors examine the likelihood of finding living organisms elsewhere in the solar system and the possibility of intelligent life existing in another part of the universe. Dickinson, however, devotes considerably more space to (highly speculative) discussion of extraterrestrial life. His upbeat book, displaying an abundance of stunning photographs and space art, is by far the more appealing. Nicolson's work, on the other hand, is more inclusive and covers topics in considerably more detail. It could easily serve as a college-level text (although it lacks the exercises and review questions found in many introductory textbooks). Dickinson's book is recommended for all libraries; Nicolson's for academic and larger public collections. ANancy Curtis, Fogler Lib., Univ. of Maine, Orono Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

[Review of earlier edition:] This impressive volume provides an excellent overview of the heavens for the general reader. What sets it apart from a multitude of other books of its type is a lively, informative text and dozens of stunning photographs and illustrations. It is a delight to read and a delight for the eye. (Robert A. Seal American Reference Book Annual)[Review of earlier edition:]

The 'beyond' subjects include cosmology, dark matter, extra-terrestrial life, UFO's, and the ultimate fate of the universe ... Lavishly illustrated with astrophotos, artworks and diagrams.

(Astronomy)[Review of earlier edition:] Terence Dickinson has produced another gem in Universe and Beyond, now in its fourth and expanded edition... Every page is full of visual impact both photographically and graphically. Each illustration is complemented with an in-depth caption. (Peggy Dominy E-Streams)[Review of earlier edition:] [Of two books reviewed] Dickinson devotes

considerably more space to (highly speculative) discussions of extraterrestrial life. His upbeat book, displaying an abundance of stunning photographs and space art, is by far the more appealing... Recommended for all libraries. (Library Journal)[Review of earlier edition:] Chosen as one of the

"Best Books for Junior High and Young Adult 2005" by Science Books and Films. (Science Books and Films)[Review of earlier edition:] Excellent book... exceedingly well written and filled with

stunning photos and illustrations, the book is one of the best I have seen so far for use by general audiences of astronomically curious readers. (Gary W. Finiol Science Books and Films)[Review of earlier edition:] The Universe and Beyond is an excellent overview of the cosmos... Lavishly

illustrated with both full-color photographs and artist's paintings, the book is comprehensive (no small feat when discussing the universe) and well organized... The explanations that help the average person comprehend the scale of the universe, combined with the wonderful illustrations, make this book a must-have for anyone interested in astronomy. (Thomas A. Lesser Science Books and Films)[Review of earlier edition:] The latest update... continues to provide an accessible and wonderfully illustrated tour. (Sky and Telescope)[Review of earlier edition:] Astronomer Terence Dickinson presents the state of current knowledge and theory about the universe in accessible form. ... Packed with information, its photographic images augmented with explanatory graphics and artistic renderings. (Washington Post 1999-12-05) --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

(4.5 stars) In the last couple of years I purchased a few astronomy books, and this was one of them. Wishing to take a short break from the American West, I picked this book out of the pile and started reading a couple of weeks ago. This is the fifth updated version of this particular book, published in 2010. The sub-sections within chapters are generally only a few pages each which makes it easy to read in small segments which is what I like at the end of the day. The material is fascinating, there are many interesting images and the captions are very good too. Overall, the writing is easy to understand and, generally speaking, seems to be geared toward the "everyman" which I appreciate. Not knowing enough about astronomy I can't really comment on the accuracy of the writing, but Mr. Dickinson does appear to have a very good reputation in the field. There are times though when I wish I could ask Mr. Dickinson a question to clarify some point. For instance, on page 99 he writes that elliptical galaxies are the most populous type of galaxy in the universe. But then on page 109 he writes: "Galaxy collisions are relatively rare today [and that] most elliptical galaxies, it seems, are not born--they are merely heaps of stars from dismembered spiral galaxies." But if elliptical galaxies are more probably the result of two spiral galaxies colliding, then I'm not sure how he can say these collisions are rare today, yet still outnumber spiral galaxies. There must have been quite a few collisions in the past, so many that even with the few that occur today, they still outnumber spiral galaxies. I'm I understanding this right? Also, on page 104 he writes that if/when our Milky Way galaxy collides with the Andromeda galaxy that the earth probably won't be affected. Based on the tremendous amount of gravity that would disrupt our universe, I don't quite understand how that can be accurate, especially when on the same page he writes: "Even a close miss would twist off much of a spiral galaxy's twirling arms, although the nuclear region would remain essentially intact." Aren't we located in one of the spiral arms? I'm new to this topic so maybe my questions are academic

and I just don't understand. I tried to find a way to contact the author but my Internet search came up empty. Still, this is a great book. May 11, 2014 Finished this book this morning. While it would be great to chat with the author for occasional clarification or to answer a question, this is a first rate book. Especially enjoyed some of the closing chapters that deal with the possibility of extraterrestrials and how the universe will end. Plenty of interesting information and lots of great photos. I feel like I accomplished something "smart" by reading this book. Highly recommended.

A friend and I are taking an intro to astronomy course and this is one of the recommended texts. I can certainly see why. It's a very clearly written work with a heavy emphasis on planetary and solar astronomy and a lucid discussion of stellar objects visible with personal telescopes, subjects that the novice astronomer is most likely to find of interest. The author also dedicates two chapters to the subject of theoretical astrophysics at the very basic level of cosmology, i.e. the theory of the origin, the possible ultimate destiny of the universe, and the likelihood of the existence of coeval universes parallel to our own. Dickinson also throws his lot in with those who would believe in UFOs, to the extent that while he doesn't believe in the sightings people report--however well meaning--he does believe that intelligent life is out there and may well already know of our existence. He gives a thorough and lucid outline of why he believes this to be the case. He also summarizes the SETI project and the ultimate change in position on this topic of high visibility astronomers like the late Carl Sagan, Iosif Shklovskii, and Ben Zuckerman. A very interesting book, and one that whets the appetite for further information.

I love this book. My absolute favorite about the universe! It's written in such a way to be understood by the lay person with beautiful pictures. Highly recommend!

I am enjoying the book very much. Very informative and interesting.

I have always been interested in astronomy and just recently picked it up as a hobby. Terence Dickinson does a wonderful job conveying concepts to the average person. He has made it so easy to understand and so interesting it is difficult to put the book down. The pictures are perfect for those of us with little imagination. My ten year old is even reading it with me. Excellent!

Any fan of Terrence Dickison astronomy books would be more than delighted with this addition to the library. Top notch all the way with tons of beautiful pictures!

That's the way Psalm 19 begins. It continues, "The skies proclaim the work of His hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard." This book is graphic proof of those wise words, written 2,700 years before man came up with deep-space telescopes. As I study the photos in this book, it stretches my concept of God greatly. Look at one page, covered with so many stars that it would take a lot of time and patience just to count them in this "snapshot" of space, and you'll find the words of Psalm 147 mind-boggling: "He knows the number of the stars and calls them all by name." I treasure this book as an aid to contemplating the greatness of my God and Creator, the Lord Jesus Christ!

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