

Death by Black Hole: And Other Cosmic Quandaries

By Neil deGrasse Tyson

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“[Tyson] tackles a great range of subjects . . . with great humor, humility, and?most important? humanity.” ?*Entertainment Weekly*

Loyal readers of the monthly "Universe" essays in *Natural History* magazine have long recognized Neil deGrasse Tyson's talent for guiding them through the mysteries of the cosmos with clarity and enthusiasm. Bringing together more than forty of Tyson's favorite essays, *?Death by Black Hole*? explores a myriad of cosmic topics, from what it would be like to be inside a black hole to the movie industry's feeble efforts to get its night skies right. One of America's best-known astrophysicists, Tyson is a natural teacher who simplifies the complexities of astrophysics while sharing his infectious fascination for our universe.

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Death by Black Hole: And Other Cosmic Quandaries By Neil deGrasse Tyson Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #3695 in Books
- Brand: imusti
- Published on: 2014-09-02
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.30" h x 1.00" w x 5.50" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 384 pages

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly
What would it feel like if your spaceship were to venture too close to the black hole lurking at the center of the Milky Way? According to astrophysicist Tyson, director of New York City's Hayden Planetarium, size does matter when it comes to black holes, although the chances of your surviving the encounter aren't good in any case. Tyson takes readers on an exciting journey from Earth's hot springs, where extremophiles flourish in hellish conditions, to the frozen, desolate stretches of the Oort Cloud and the universe's farthest reaches, in both space and time. Tyson doesn't restrict his musings to astrophysics, but wanders into related fields like relativity and particle physics, which he explains just as clearly as he does Lagrangian points, where we someday may park interplanetary filling stations. He tackles popular myths (is the sun yellow?) and takes movie directors—most notably James Cameron—to task for spectacular goofs. In the last section the author gives his take on the hot subject of intelligent design. Readers of *Natural History* magazine will be familiar with many of the 42 essays collected here, while newcomers will profit from Tyson's witty and entertaining description of being pulled apart atom by atom into a black hole, and other, closer-to-earth, and cheerier, topics. 9 illus. *(Jan.)*
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From Booklist
Whenever astronomy intrudes on the news, interviewers flock to the telegenic Tyson for an explanation. The high-profile astrophysicist is also an essayist for *Natural History*, the American Museum of Natural History's monthly that is the source for this volume. His pieces are organized under whimsical banners such as "All the ways the cosmos wants to kill us," and Tyson's style will connect with general readers who are interested in the form the apocalypse will take. Scientists know that in a few billion years, an expanding sun will vaporize the earth, provided it's not been previously destroyed by a rogue black hole. Besides regaling spooky stories, the selections deploy movies as an astronomy popularizer, with Tyson critiquing the accuracy of the sky depicted in various scenes. Elsewhere, topics in the history of astronomy and physics fall into two categories: essays about the discovery of physical laws, and about cosmic objects such as galactic gas clouds and quasars. Whatever readers' scientific tastes, something in Tyson's wide-ranging collection will sate them.
Gilbert Taylor
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Review
“Characteristically fun and jaunty.” (Sky and Telescope)

“Dr. Tyson has a grand time dissecting certain forms of foolishness. Get it, plan to savor it” (Angela Gunn - USAToday.com)

“Tyson comes across as having an excellent grasp of the current state of astrophysics, cosmology, chemistry and other scientific disciplines... he conveys knowledge clearly to the nonspecialist, often with ingratiating humor and wit.” (Roy E. Perry - The Tennessean)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Ann Bland:

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Greg Little:

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Yvonne Tetrault:

The book untitled Death by Black Hole: And Other Cosmic Quandaries contain a lot of information on it. The writer explains the girl idea with easy means. The language is very clear and understandable all the people, so do not necessarily worry, you can easy to read the idea. The book was authored by famous author. The author provides you in the new age of literary works. It is easy to read this book because you can keep reading your smart phone, or device, so you can read the book inside anywhere and anytime. If you want to buy the e-book, you can available their official web-site and also order it. Have a nice read.

Larry Luis:

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