



The View From the Center of the Universe: Discovering Our Extraordinary Place in the Cosmos

By Joel R. Primack, Nancy Ellen Abrams

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In this strikingly original book, a world-renowned cosmologist and an innovative writer of the history and philosophy of science uncover an astonishing truth: Humans actually are central to the universe. What does this mean for our culture and our personal lives? The answer is revolutionary: a science-based cosmology that allows us to understand the universe as a whole and our extraordinary place in it.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

If greeting card poet Susan Polis Schultz wrote about physics and the universe, this is the book she would produce. Filled with simplistic observations ("In their hearts most people are still living in an imagined universe where... we humans have no special place and often feel insignificant") as well as romantic cheerleading ("We need to overflow with gratitude that our universe... is filled with light and possibilities"), it offers cosmology disguised as a self-help guide to the universe. The authors—Primack is a physicist at UC–Santa Cruz, and Abrams is a philosopher of science—contend that Newton's picture of the universe as shapeless and endless left humans feeling cosmically homeless, but in response they articulate a Peter Pan physics in which humans are intimately related to the universe because we are made of stardust, i.e., we're an integral part of the cosmos. Our place in the universe is extraordinary, they claim, because the universe will never be in this moment of time again, and we have a responsibility to take care of the Earth since there is still time to solve some of our cosmic problems. Attempting to weave science and spirituality into one cosmic fabric, the authors satisfy the reader in neither realm. B&w illus. (*Apr.*)

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From Scientific American

In this thoughtful and original book, a husband-and-wife team presents a science-based cosmology aimed at allowing us to understand the universe as a whole and our place in it. "Most of us have grown up thinking that there is no basis for our feeling central or even important to the cosmos," they write. "But with the new evidence it turns out that this perspective is nothing but a prejudice. There is no geographic center to an expanding universe, but we are central in several unexpected ways that derive directly from physics and cosmology." Primack is professor of cosmology at the University of California, Santa Cruz, and an originator of the theory of cold dark matter; Abrams is a lawyer and a writer.

Editors of Scientific American

Review

A beautiful balance of fact and theory . . . This terrific book will Appeal to people . . . interested in what's 'out there.' -- *Library Journal*, starred review

There are illuminating views to be found here of how the universe behaves and what it consists of. -- *Kirkus Reviews*

[The authors] offer marvelous ways to visualize Earth . . . This is one of those truly creative books that crosses disciplines... -- *Los Angeles Times Book Review*

discuss[es] how our understanding of the Universe affects how we perceive our role in it . . . admirable. -- *Nature*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Brandon Riddle:

As people who live in the modest era should be up-date about what going on or information even knowledge to make these individuals keep up with the era and that is always change and move ahead. Some of you maybe will certainly update themselves by looking at books. It is a good choice for you but the problems coming to you actually is you don't know which one you should start with. This *The View From the Center of the Universe: Discovering Our Extraordinary Place in the Cosmos* is our recommendation to help you keep up with the world. Why, because this book serves what you want and wish in this era.

Joni Griffith:

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Jacqueline Gore:

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