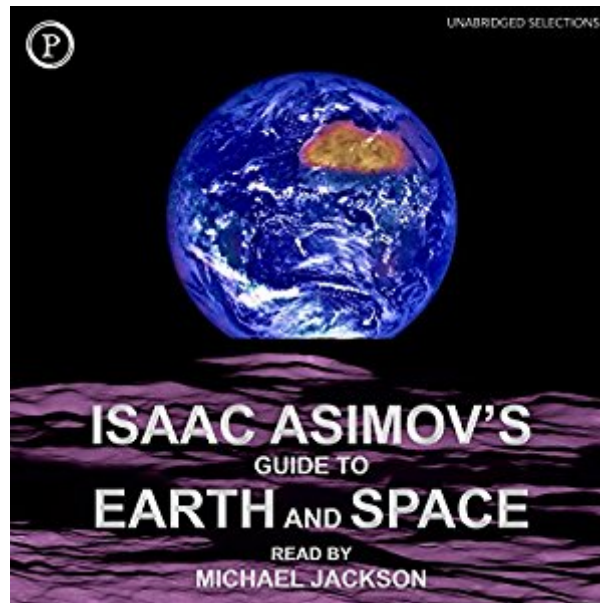




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Isaac Asimov's Guide To Earth And Space



Synopsis

For anyone who has ever looked up at the stars and wondered what it all means, Isaac Asimov's Guide to Earth and Space is indispensable. Isaac Asimov's gift for popular and entertaining exposition has never been better deployed, with his succinct answers to the most intriguing questions about planets, stars, and galaxies. What are quasars? How was the Earth formed? Puzzled by pulsars? Perplexed by the Big Bang? Bewildered by black holes? Asimov has answers everyone can understand and enjoy. Treating humankind's evolving understanding of the universe as the world's longest running detective story, bringing together the works of Copernicus, Newton, Einstein, Stephen Hawking, and other scientific pioneers, Asimov guides us on a wonderful romp around the globe and out to the farthest reaches of the universe.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I love Asimov's non-fiction works. This one is a rehash of several of his early works on physics and astronomy. For me, it was wonderful to have access to the ideas in these long-out-of-print works. For the newcomer to Asimov, it will be an amazing, understandable introduction to the topic. For the Asimov veteran, it will be an easy, enjoyable read - even if you read most of it in much older books before. Written in the 80's, it is amazing how he couches his descriptions in broad terms which have not changed in the ensuing 30+ years - and how he leaves prescient caveats which have all turned out to be correct... Such an incredible person - a must-read for any science-minded layman.

This is a very well-written book, suitable for all ages. Asimov is an entertaining teacher of the basic

facts about Earth and space (e.g., the Earth is round, it rotates about its own axis, it revolves around the Sun). But, what is even more important, he is a master at describing the thought processes of the various philosophers and scientists who established these facts in the face of traditional beliefs (e.g., the Earth is flat, it is unmoving, the Sun goes round the Earth). It is thus a wonderful book for anyone who would like to learn how to determine the truth in this age of fundamentalism and conflicting claims posted on the Web and propagated by e-mails. The desire and the ability to think clearly and logically have always been rare commodities -- and have become even more uncommon today, even in technologically advanced communities such as the USA. The book costs less than \$7, which makes it a great stocking stuffer. But it is worth more than \$70, or even \$700.

With Isaac Asimov, you know what you are going to get- good solid science, delivered in a readable and interesting manner. Now, let me be clear- science marches on. So, sometimes the science here is a little outdated. Thus- before you go using this as research material, check it on some other source. But if you just want to read, learn and enjoy- these are great books. This one is a little bit on the basic side, compared to some of his others.

Well written - highly technical paperback book. Technical part is great, but sometimes Asimov strays off into the anti-religious direction and there he gets lost.

Isaac Asimov assembles 111 of his short, non-fiction essays into a question-and-answer book that teaches us about the Earth and its neighborhood. These answers are accessible to older children as well as adults. They are written in Asimov's conversational style that makes science seem so straightforward. A warning label is appropriate to remind us that some of these answers no longer represent current thinking. But most have aged well. My favorites include:- How old is the Earth?- Is the Earth hollow?- Is there life on Mars?- How fast does light travel?- What is the Galaxy?- Does anything reach us from the stars besides light?- What is in interstellar dust clouds? These short essays are a good reminder of the science we learned in middle school. And it's nice to hear the Good Doctor's voice again. Readers may also enjoy *Asimov's Guide to the Bible* and *Asimov's Guide to Shakespeare*.

This is Asimov writing for the novice with an interest in science. I bought for the Earth science ideas because of global warming; he has a different take on global warming, but definitely finds it's a possibility given the global engineering that we humans have performed. There's much more here

and it's a good place to begin reading for the general reader with a new interest in basic, popular science.

Another book that I gifted to my grand-nephew because of his interest in space and the Universe. It seems that this book is a hit with him as well.

An easy to read rational and clearly written history of how we discovered knowledge of the greater world around us. The simple but profound methods of discovery used by early scientists is an inspiration to thoughtful people. Asimov sets out more recent 20 century discovery and causes us to wonder, where to now.

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