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Black Holes and Time Warps: Einstein's Outrageous Legacy (Commonwealth Fund Book Program)

By Kip S. Thorne

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In a masterfully written, brilliantly informed work, the Feynman Professor of Theoretical Physics at Caltech leads readers through an elegant, always human tapestry of interlocking themes, answering the great question: What principles control our universe and why do physicists think they know what they know? Introduction by Stephen Hawking. Illustrations.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Thorne, the Feynman Professor of Theoretical Physics at CalTech, here offers an accessible, deftly illustrated history of curved spacetime. Covering developments from Einstein to Hawking, he takes his readers to the very edge of theoretical physics: straight through wormholes--and maybe back again--past hyperspace, "hairless" wormholes and quantum foam to the leading questions that drive quantum physics. He even addresses the tabloid taunt that has tantalized him since 1988: Do quantum laws allow time travel? (In his foreword, Hawking suggests, "Maybe someone will come back from the future and tell us the answers.") Thorne is rigorous, modest and, true to the spirit of science, determined that readers move beyond the appeal of exotic answers and grasp the significance of quantum questions. This volume, a model of style, format and illustration, will speak eloquently to the readership, ranging widely in scientific literacy and interest, that such theoretical physics writers as Hawking and Feynman have established.

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From Library Journal

This book's subtitle explains it all. Virtually all astrophysicists accept the fact that Einstein's theory of general relativity is the best model of physical reality that we have. In other words, it is essentially correct. Yet the model requires the existence of physical phenomena beyond one's wildest imagination. One of the investigators attempting to fathom the depths of the theory, Thorne here describes the people who have done the work and the trails, both false and fruitful, they have followed. He brings us up-to-date on the state of the art in black hole research and the attempts to find definitive proof of their existence. Even with the mathematics removed, his explanations can be pretty heavy going. Nevertheless, the payoff is worth the work. For academic and larger public library science collections.

Harold D. Shane, Baruch Coll., CUNY

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From [Booklist](#)

In the 1920s, famed British physicist Arthur Eddington smugly asserted that only two people then alive understood Einstein's relativity theories: himself and Einstein. But Eddington was wrong, and Einstein, too, for neither admitted that the theories required the existence of black holes. "Implosion Is Compulsory" is the title of one Thorne chapter, and by the time he tells how and why physicists proved it, he has pulled readers into his account as inevitably as if the book itself were a black hole. For it is almost a quantum jump in science writing for laypeople, one that sets a challenge to all interested in the physics of the weird objects by nobly disdaining dumb-down tendencies like eliminating exponents and equations. But words and drawings remain the principal medium through which Thorne propagates the intellectual paths by which physicists attained their understanding of gravity's extremes. Not often can experts descend to popular understanding without being condescending; and Thorne's palpable eagerness to impart the concepts he helped develop as a world-class physicist at Caltech elevates this into a compelling human discovery as well as a revolution in science. Simultaneously demanding and rewarding, this is a landmark book fit to beckon Hawkingphiles.

Gilbert Taylor

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Margaret Burton:

Why don't make it to be your habit? Right now, try to ready your time to do the important action, like looking for your favorite reserve and reading a e-book. Beside you can solve your long lasting problem; you can add your knowledge by the book entitled Black Holes and Time Warps: Einstein's Outrageous Legacy (Commonwealth Fund Book Program). Try to face the book Black Holes and Time Warps: Einstein's Outrageous Legacy (Commonwealth Fund Book Program) as your good friend. It means that it can to get your friend when you truly feel alone and beside associated with course make you smarter than previously. Yeah, it is very fortunated for you. The book makes you much more confidence because you can know every thing by the book. So , we should make new experience in addition to knowledge with this book.

Ellen Garcia:

Now a day folks who Living in the era where everything reachable by interact with the internet and the resources inside can be true or not call for people to be aware of each details they get. How individuals to be smart in obtaining any information nowadays? Of course the correct answer is reading a book. Reading through a book can help persons out of this uncertainty Information especially this Black Holes and Time Warps: Einstein's Outrageous Legacy (Commonwealth Fund Book Program) book as this book offers you rich facts and knowledge. Of course the data in this book hundred per-cent guarantees there is no doubt in it you may already know.

Tracy Painter:

Reading can called brain hangout, why? Because when you are reading a book especially book entitled Black Holes and Time Warps: Einstein's Outrageous Legacy (Commonwealth Fund Book Program) your mind will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in each and every aspect that maybe mysterious for but surely can become your mind friends. Imaging just about every word written in a guide then become one contact form conclusion and explanation that maybe you never get prior to. The Black Holes and Time Warps: Einstein's Outrageous Legacy (Commonwealth Fund Book Program) giving you one more experience more than blown away your brain but also giving you useful info for your better life in this era. So now let us present to you the relaxing pattern the following is your body and mind will likely be pleased when you are finished studying it, like winning a casino game. Do you want to try this extraordinary wasting spare time activity?

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