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New Scientist: The Origin Of (Almost) Everything: From The Big Bang To Belly-button Fluff



Synopsis

Does Anything Eat Wasps? meets Information Is Beautiful: a journey through life, the universe and everything. From what actually happened in the big bang to the accidental discovery of Post-it notes, science is packed with surprising discoveries. Did you know, for instance, that if you were to get too close to a black hole it would suck you up like a noodle (it's called spaghettification), why your keyboard is laid out in QWERTY (it's not to make it easier to type) or whether the invention of the wheel was less important to civilisation than the bag (think about it)? New Scientist does. And now they want to take you on a whistle-stop journey from the start of our universe (through the history of stars, galaxies, meteorites, the moon and dark energy) to our planet (through oceans and weather to oil) and life (through dinosaurs to emotions and sex) to civilisation (from cities to alcohol and cooking) and knowledge (from alphabets to alchemy), ending up with technology (computers to rocket science). Witty essays explore concepts that zoom from how many people have ever lived to showing you how a left-wing brain differs from a right-wing one.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

As opposed to the one star reviews - the "lack of" format is exactly what I like about the book. I can open it to any page and find something of interest - If not on THAT page - then the very next page will be of significant interest. Having only lived on this planet for 87 years - I'm still quite interested to learn new things.

I was excited to read this book, but the format made it unreadable, more like a shrunken magazine

page. If this is fixed I will try again

Have you ever read an article from New Scientist either in print form or since they released articles on the Internet from 1996 onwards? Take the best of their publication over the many decades and combine into a book with meaningful illustrations and you have "The Origin of (almost) Everything". When I found out that "The Origin of (Almost) Everything" was being compiled I was excited to get my hands on it and read articles explaining some of the many interesting and complex aspects surrounding our lives. I bought the Kindle version and after I began reading regretted purchasing it in this format. Each article averages two pages and finishes with an excellent visual. Unfortunately the Kindle application shows only one page at a time therefore I had to swipe between two pages to get the full extent of the visual; a physical copy would have had a greater visual impact. In saying that, the book covers a plethora of topics from aspects of how time, energy and mass work to why we have belly button fluff. As the structure of the book is laid out into neat and consumable articles it is a great way to pick up this book whenever it suits you to learn something new about the world around us. I recommend it, just not the Kindle version!! Three key takeaways from the book: 1. The power of 12 and how many of our archaic systems of measurement were based this way due to our hands (in particular the twelve knuckles of our fingers). Think duodecimal which has been superseded by decimal; except in timekeeping. 2. The concept of "Frozen time", an illusion caused by the design of our visual system. Essentially the brain backfills what it thinks we may have missed. This is why you look at an analog clock and think that the clock hasn't ticked for over a second. 3. If the auto industry had technologies which followed Moore's Law a car today would travel at 500 million km/h on 2 million miles per gallon and cost less than a cent. Star Wars and Star Trek eat your heart out!!

The format of this book is awful. This is not a pure electronic book. It is a photo collection of the real book.

Purchased the New Scientist The Origin of (almost) everything book and gave it to my nephew who is a Uni Student in Science & Engineering and he loves it. He said it is interesting, informative and will be a very useful reference tool. Recommend for all science loving students.

This book was purchased as an educational read for a friend's children. Maybe a bit advanced for them at the moment but should be a useful reference text for the future. I'd read a library copy

previously and found the style and subjects quite easy to understand and presented in a very digestible manner. A recommended buy certainly.

great collection of quality core science articles

interesting to see difficult concepts in infographic formats

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