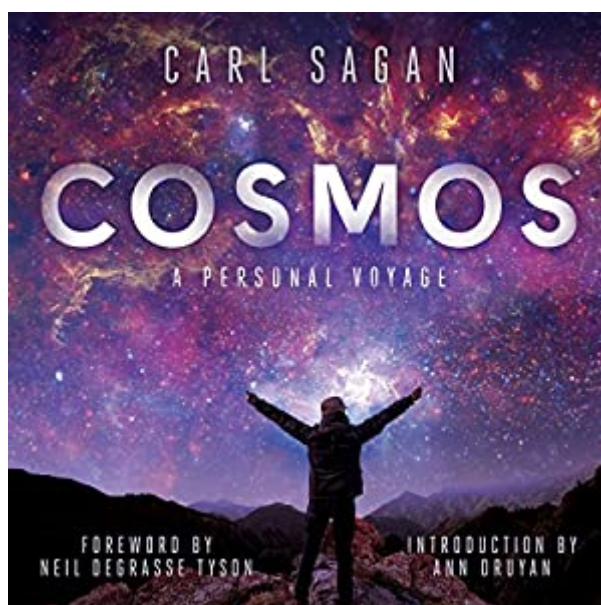


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Cosmos



Synopsis

Cosmos is one of the bestselling science books of all time. In clear-eyed prose, Sagan reveals a jewel-like blue world inhabited by a life form that is just beginning to discover its own identity and to venture into the vast ocean of space. Featuring a new Introduction by Sagan's collaborator, Ann Druyan, and a new Foreword by astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson, Cosmos retraces the fourteen billion years of cosmic evolution that have transformed matter into consciousness, exploring such topics as the origin of life, the human brain, Egyptian hieroglyphics, spacecraft missions, the death of the Sun, the evolution of galaxies, and the forces and individuals who helped to shape modern science. Includes introductory music: "Heaven and Hell" by Vangelis from Cosmos: A Personal Voyage used with permission from Druyan-Sagan Associates, Inc. All rights reserved.

Book Information

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in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Science > Astronomy #1 in Books > Science & Math > Astronomy & Space Science > Astronomy

Customer Reviews

What a privilege and joy it was to have read this book. I made my way through it rather slowly because it was so packed full of historical anecdotes, scientific findings, and thought-provoking insights that I needed a break every chapter or so to let ideas mentally sink in. In 13 chapters, Dr Sagan gives us a glimpse into all scales of space and time. From the Big Bang to the formation of the stars and the Earth, through the painstaking evolutionary process that resulted in human beings, to millenia beyond our time where interstellar travel may be a viable means of commute. From quarks to complex molecules to planets, supernovae and black holes, to the idea of an infinite hierarchy of universes, all nested within one another. This book is far beyond an ordinary astronomy general interest read. Its contents incorporate genetics, ancient history, chemical biology, sociology,

religion, human psychology and philosophy... Dr Sagan weaves these realms together in the context of the Cosmos, and raises intriguing questions about hypothetical alternate turn of events as well as where we (humankind) go from here. He pays homage to the brilliant minds whose work and courage has contributed to our current technical capabilities. From Erastosthenes' astute calculation of the Earth's circumference, to Kepler's observations, to Einstein's special theory of relativity (and those in between: Huygens, Brahe, Newton, Champollion etc.), Sagan not only highlights their contribution, but discusses the societal circumstances that these individuals found themselves in. In doing so, he invokes a scrutiny of our current societal climate and behaviors. Are we doing our best to build and maintain a society that values the pursuit of knowledge over one that may eventually crumble under self-destructive greed? Are we investing an adequate amount of resources (both monetary and intellect) on constructive, self-preserving causes? Sagan goes as far as to compare government spendings on military weapons with scientific research funding, and demonstrates how far we still have to go before our loyalties are united not just within nation-states, but as a species of Planet Earth. Dr Sagan's intrigues are not limited to Western ways of thinking. Instead, he pays deep respect to the cultures, achievements, and creation myths around the world - this was done through anecdotes from ancient Chinese, Egyptian, and Indian history as well as various tribal accounts. By doing so, he demonstrates that human intrigue has more in common than we may first assume. The early civilizations around the Earth, long before they knew of one another, independently devised theories about how we came to be based on their observations of the heavens. These were passed on to their descendants through subsequent generations ultimately resulting in what we may believe or know of today. I wonder what Dr Sagan would have thought about the state of the world today | recent election results, SpaceX, virtual reality, artificial intelligence/machine learning, Kepler missions, CRISPR-Cas9 gene editing, instability in the Middle East, the Higgs Boson | My guess is that he would simultaneously be alarmed that we are STILL arguing whether or not climate change is a problem, and amazed at our technological achievements with the internet and a legitimate goal to visit Mars. I would without a doubt recommend this book to everyone. A scientific degree is not necessary to fully appreciate the lesson and message that this book conveys. Dr Sagan's literary style is not only comprehensible but so finely depicts his deep passion for the sciences that it is almost poetic. After having read the book, one could truly dwell on what we can do to unify ourselves as citizens of Planet Earth, with a mutual interest of survival, pursuit of interplanetary/interstellar travel and constant discovery of what our universe has to offer.

Was hoping this book would really help me get a mental grip on how the universe works. He sure gave it a good try, but I guess it's time for me to admit that it's so far over my head that I just ain't ever going to get there. I dropped one rating star due to maybe a little too much astronomy and astrology history, although at least I did understand that part. And also because it is now going on 35 years old, so maybe getting a little dated. I will however, be forever indebted to him for his wonderful PBS TV series which lit in me the desire to learn as much as I'm capable of about the cosmos. Thanks Carl.

I have always been a Carl Sagan fan. We had this book when my children were young and lost it during a move. I've been able to get it again from this great vendor, thank you so much. I read all of Carl Sagan's books as he is so good with popular science.

COSMOS is a wonderful series. This is the Mexican version. It defaults to Spanish audio, has a Spanish DVD menu, and has the option for Spanish subtitles. You can change it to English subtitles very easily if you can handle a simple Spanish menu. Plays fine in my US Xbox. Great deal compared to the US version.

Gives you such an appreciation for the fragility and complexity of the cosmos and of life itself. Carl Sagan beautifully intertwines scientific fact with elegant and captivating storytelling in a way that is digestible to people of all scientific levels of understanding. This book is a great starting point on your intellectual journey to understanding how the universe works on a scientific level. It provides you with a perspective that allows you to cherish life on earth and understand how petty our "big" problems are in the grand scheme of the universe's existence. 10/10 would recommend to anyone

The TV series got me hooked on astronomy and science (I am an engineer). The book is great and brings back fond memories from my childhood, in addition to being still a great starting point into space.

I love this book. Have read this before, but enjoyed it just as much this time. You are exposed to so many everyday things in a new way..It is an older book and has PBS video to accompany it

I've read just about everything Dr. Sagan has written. He is one of a number of scientists I admire for their attempts to describe our universe and our little blue planet 3rd from the sun. I bought a first

edition hard back copy and gave it away to a guy that believed the earth to still be flat. In a manner of speaking! Then I bought a paperback edition and it disappeared. Now I have another hard back copy that seems to fit my present state of being. I'm 63 years old and the book Cosmos I purchased from you fits my appearance as though I'd been leafing through it's pages all these years. In the near future I want to purchase the CD of the PBS series he and his wife Ann Druyan produced in the late 1970's. The book was published in 1980. I believe there is a similar British version of Cosmos and I'd like to get a copy of that. My friend Julian Lennon says he remembers see it when he was a young boy. He sent me a U tube video of the introduction. I got a real intellectual rise from Julian's vid.

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