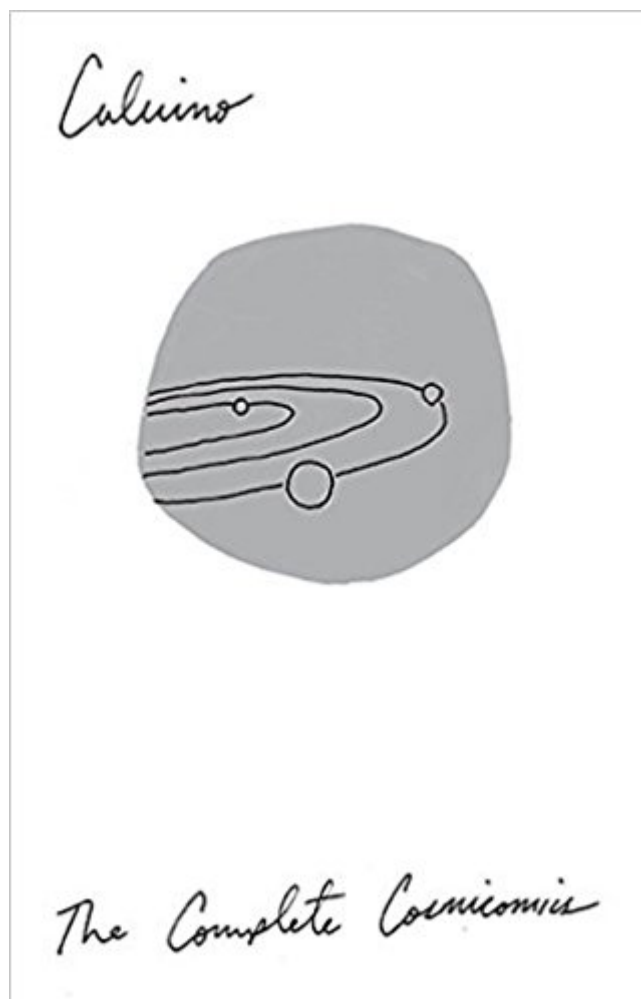


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The Complete Cosmiconics



Synopsis

“We were peering into this darkness, criss-crossed with voices, when the change took place: the only real, great change I’ve ever happened to witness, and compared to it the rest is nothing.” — from *The Complete Cosmicomics* Italo Calvino’s beloved cosmicomics cross planets and traverse galaxies, speed up time or slow it down to the particles of an instant. Through the eyes of an ageless guide named Qfwfq, Calvino explores natural phenomena and tells the story of the origins of the universe. Poignant, fantastical, and wise, these thirty-four dazzling stories collected here in one definitive anthology relate complex scientific and mathematical concepts to our everyday world. They are an indelible (and unfailingly delightful) literary achievement. Nimble and often hilarious . . . Trying to describe such a diverse and entertaining mix, I have to admit, just as Calvino does so often, that my words fail here, too. There’s no way I or anyone, really can muster enough of them to quite capture the magic of these stories . . . Read this book, please.” — Colin Dwyer, NPR

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars — See all reviews (36 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

calvino collected numerous fairy tales for publication. when trying his own hand at the tale form he situated his tales at the dawn of creation, the big bang and dinosaur versions.space travel to the moon is convenient when the moon is close enough to see it is close enough to climb on with ladders, as in THE DISTANCE OF THE MOON. in THE METEORITES, the mess on earth from meteor storms requires constant sweeping of the planet by a housewife. in another story, atoms

become part of a children's game. the galaxies are not left unattended, household and community activities are part of the events of the cosmos. each story is introduced with a scientific statement, usually astronomical. qfwfq is the narrator of the majority of these tall tales. qfwfq is a palindrome, a symbol, and the commutative of both algebraic formula and logic. qfwfq was also the first story teller. mention any cosmic event and qfwfq will swear he was there. audacity like this has not been heard since shem and shaun in the classroom in finnegans wake by james joyce. other than name and gender, qfwfq's identity depends on the event. qfwfq is particle, wave, one cell organism, but always a voice. never the first voice. though before there were light waves and color, qfwfq existed, he speaks of his geneology of parents and kinship prior to parenthood. these wildly imaginative and funny fairy tales are suitable for astronomers, mathematicians, and stem field participants to read curled under the blankets. the cosmicomics, written back in the 1960s, saw calvino in the literary company of john barth and jorge luis borges who wrote short fictions as mathematical puzzles.

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