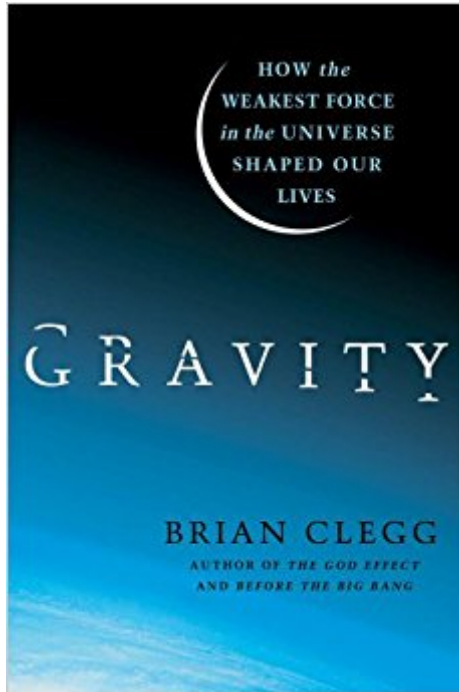


The book was found

Gravity: How The Weakest Force In The Universe Shaped Our Lives



Synopsis

A history of gravity, and a study of its importance and relevance to our lives, as well as its influence on other areas of science. Physicists will tell you that four forces control the universe. Of these, gravity may be the most obvious, but it is also the most mysterious. Newton managed to predict the force of gravity but couldn't explain how it worked at a distance. Einstein picked up on the simple premise that gravity and acceleration are interchangeable to devise his mind-bending general relativity, showing how matter warps space and time. Not only did this explain how gravity worked, but it also predicted how apparently simple gravitation has four separate components, but it predicted everything from black holes to gravity's effect on time. Whether it's the reality of anti-gravity or the unexpected discovery that a ball and a laser beam drop at the same rate, gravity is the force that fascinates.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

It is difficult to write a review after concurrently finishing *The Edge of the Universe*, *The Particle at the End of the Universe*, and Brian Clegg's fine book *Gravity*--the latter two books are highly recommended both deserving of forthcoming reviews. One will find a large crossover between the

contents Clegg's book and the Carroll's *The Particle at the End of the Universe*. Brian Clegg has written a very interesting and popular level book for semi-initiated science readers. Indeed, most of the contents of this book should be familiar as gravity has been the driving force behind the success of Newtonian physics and Einstein's subsequent general theory of relativity. And, of course the Holy Grail for gravity is now the "search" for a quantum theory of gravity, a theory of everything by another name. What makes Clegg's standout from other books that mention the same issues, however, is written in an enjoyable and logical style. As the previous review does not say too much by way of the contents of the chapters, it is here that I will briefly turn my attentions. The book is premised on the importance of gravity, not only for our daily lives but for the history of science, both issues that comprise chapter 1. The chapters are small and self-contained, meaning that a subsequent chapter is not premised on reading the previous chapter. Chapters 2 through 5 look at the development and treatment of the gravity and the cosmos, from Aristotle to Ptolemy to Galileo until the reader reaches Newton. Most of this information can be gleaned from other popular level science books, but that in no way detracts from Clegg's writing style which enables the reader to easily follow the contents, and easy to memorize which is unspoken goal for many readers.

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