

Merlin's Tour of the Universe: A Skywatcher's Guide to Everything from Mars and Quasars to Comets, Planets, Blue Moons, and Werewolves

By Neil de Grasse Tyson

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
Merlin, a fictional visitor from the Andromeda Galaxy, Planet Omniscia, has been friends with many of the most important scientific figures of the past including Kepler, da Vinci, Magellan, Doppler, Einstein and Hubble. In this delightful tour of the galaxies, Merlin often recounts his conversations with these historical figures in his responses to popular astronomy questions asked by adults and children alike. Merlin's well-informed answers combine a unique combination of wit and poetry along with serious science explained in refreshingly clear, reader-friendly language.

Dear Merlin: Can a person cross our galaxy in a spaceship during one human lifespan?

Merlin: In 1905, Merlin's good friend Albert Einstein introduced the "Special Theory of Relativity," which predicts that time will tick slower and slower the faster you travel. Were you to embark on such an adventure you could conceivably age as little as you wish, depending of course, on your exact speed. The problem arises when you return to Earth, which will have moved several hundred thousand years into the future and everyone will have forgotten about you.

A skywatcher's book for lovers of the universe by one of its greatest lights.

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- Sales Rank: #320045 in Books
- Published on: 1997-07-14
- Released on: 1997-07-14
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.48" h x .71" w x 5.51" l, .89 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 318 pages

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

This is a collection of questions and answers from *Star Date*, a popular astronomy magazine. The answers to questions from the general public are supplied by Tyson, who has assumed the persona of "Merlin," an alleged visitor from the Andromeda galaxy. The material is clustered in 13 chapters; the first several deal with various parts of the solar system, and the others are concerned with topics such as stars, telescopes, and galaxies. The responses are generally terse but accurate; one or two of them appear not to deal with what the reader was asking. The author makes liberal use of humor, some strained; the Merlin character is rather pointless. Although hardly an essential work, this may be a useful acquisition for some public libraries.

- *Jack W. Weigel, Univ. of Michigan Lib. , Ann Arbor*

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From the Publisher

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From the Inside Flap

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From reader reviews:

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