

The Accidental Universe

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in the accidental universe physicist and novelist alan lightman explores the emotional and philosophical questions raised by discoveries in science focusing most intently on the human condition and the needs of humankind here in a collection of exhilarating essays lightman shows us our own universe from a series of fascinating and diverse perspectives he takes on the difficult dialogue between science and religion the conflict between our human desire for permanence and the impermanence of nature the possibility that our universe is simply an accident the manner in which modern technology has divorced us from enjoying a direct experience of the world and our resistance to the view that our bodies and minds can be explained by scientific logic and laws alone with his customary passion precision lyricism and imagination in the accidental universe alan lightman leaves us with the suggestion heady and

humbling that what we see and understand of the world and ourselves is only a tiny piece of the extraordinary perhaps unfathomable whole praise for alan lightman a gem of a novel that is strange witty erudite and alive with lightman s playful genius junot diaz it would not seem possible for alan lightman to match his earlier tour de force einstein s dreams but in mr g he has done so with wit imagination and transcendent beauty anita desai

this book is a survey of the range of apparently miraculous accidents of nature that have enabled the universe to evolve its familiar structures atoms stars galaxies and life itself concludes with an investigation of the so called anthropic principle

given the excellent historical context in which corey frames his case and the rational manner in which he closes off the loopholes the stage is set for paradigm shift in the secular area i highly recommend this book hugh ross astronomer

something old something new contemporary entanglements of religion and secularity offers a fresh perspective on debates surrounding religious and secular thinking in each chapter wayne glausser focuses on a topic of contemporary relevance in which something old the sacrament of extreme unction greek rhetorical tropes scholastic theology entangles with something new psilocybin therapy for the dying the new atheism cognitive science glausser uses the term entanglement to describe his distinctive approach to the relationship between religion and secularity the concept of entanglement refers to a contentious but oddly intimate relationship in which secular ideas compete with corresponding religious convictions but neither side wins by displacing the other as traditional religious knowledge and values come into conflict with their secular counterparts the old ideas undergo stress and adaptation but the influence works in both directions whether they do so consciously or unconsciously entangled secularists engage with and sometimes borrow from older paradigms they believe they have surpassed something old something new takes an unusual approach to this popular debate and offers a new perspective in the conversation between believers and secularists this is a book that theists atheists agnostics and everyone still searching for the right label will find respectful but provocative

modern science has proven that reality is precisely designed to use a multilayered network of information processing systems to sculpt an immortal force we call energy into intelligent beings you are this immortal force brought to life as the ultimate information processing system to perceive explore and revel in the beauty of this design science has proven that both the physical and mental dimensions of reality are information processing systems from top to

bottom these layers of interlocking information processing systems are so complex intricate and precise that it can easily be shown that it is mathematically impossible that this magnificent design could be the result of a series of incredibly fortunate random accidents the book discusses the mystical beauty and elegant complexity of the entire design that modern science has actually discovered from the bizarre choreography of the subatomic world to the necessity and beauty of consciousness our mental superpowers and the glory of the mental dimension that we create and inhabit faced with this scientific proof of intelligent design atheists have scrambled to protect their worldview they have had to totally abandon our scientific knowledgebase and are currently hiding behind a diversionary smokescreen they have dreamt up that ridiculously claims that everything happens somewhere in an infinity of other universes that they have imagined the author who had been an atheist for most of his life presents a compelling easy to read argument that all of modern science s evidence describes an intelligently designed multilayered information processing system with a beautiful purpose you

primary and secondary sources help explore both sides of the issue of creationism and evolution

vols for 1871 76 1913 14 include an extra number the christmas bookseller separately paged and not included in the consecutive numbering of the regular series

volume two outlines in thorough but understandable fashion other scientific evidence for recent special creation with no reference to scripture

in 1963 jane roberts met a spiritual entity named seth he spoke through her and the lessons he taught proved timeless and crucial from 1968 to 1975 roberts held an esp class during which she channeled seth susan watkins was a member of that class the knowledge gained from seth helped watkins and her classmates face serious illness painful relationships financial hardship and natural catastrophe it also changed their lives in addition to being a well written highly entertaining historical account of the late jane roberts and her class conversations with seth reveals the profound insights discovered by class members insights into the origin of both the troubling and triumphant events in our lives and into the vast nature of human consciousness roberts seth material is consistently one of the top two most visited collections at the yale university archives the story that launched the new age movement

this work provides an evaluation of the cosmos and the planet by each of the various religions it looks at the status of the natural

order in its own right as well as the status and responsibilities of humans in that order the following questions are tackled is the relationship one of dominion stewardship union or duality what is the status of animals how far do the moral considerations that affect humans extend to animals if at all do the different religions offer any distinctive understanding of the status of animals what if anything is there in religious anthropologies which distinguishes humans from or unifies them with animals what is the ultimate condition of nature in the religious often eschatological vision

did the universe originate from a big bang as argued by leading astrophysicists and others or does some other theory more accurately describe its beginnings are there other forms of life in the universe what about other universes this volume discusses these and other topics in this hotly debated area where philosophy and science meet

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