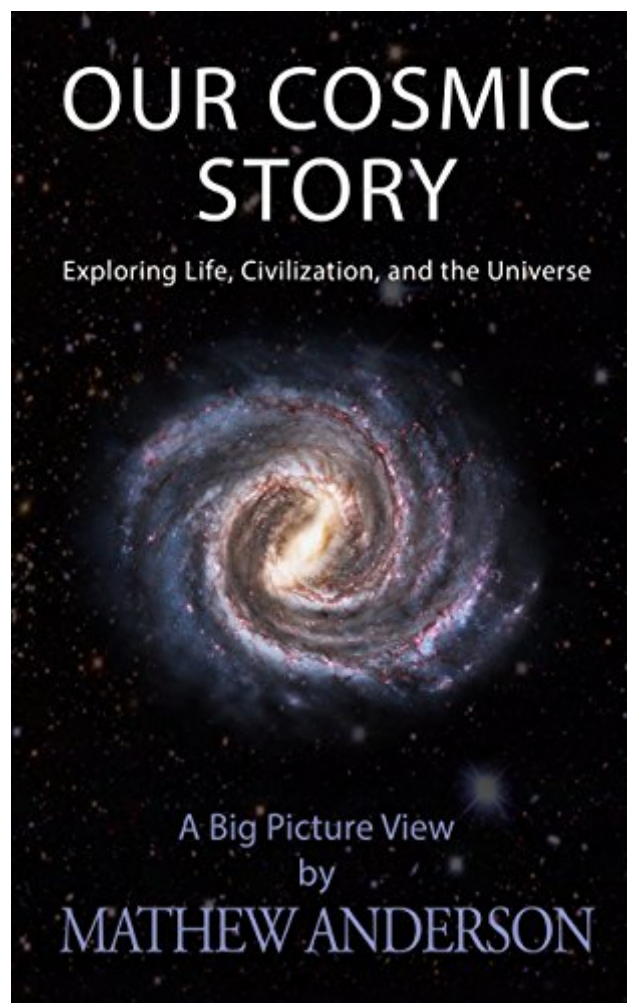




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Our Cosmic Story: Exploring Life, Civilization, And The Universe (OCS Book 1)



Synopsis

Best Seller - #1 in Astronomy, Astrophysics & Space Science, and Cosmology" This book is a great intro to the topics of human civilizations throughout history, sustainability of our world, and astrobiology - covering the formation of life on Earth, the future of life, and explores the search for life elsewhere in the Universe." - review

Our Cosmic Story is a big picture view of our Universe and the potential it has for life and civilization. We start by briefly looking back at the story of Earth and its great civilizations, understand how life itself evolved Homo sapiens, review the challenges and risks that a species entails in developing a civilization and growing into a space-fairing entity, and then explore the makeup of the Universe to gain insight into the chance of other sentient creatures living elsewhere. The quest to reach beyond the confines of our world is a natural consequence of being a very small part of a grand and dynamic Universe. Looking up at the sky instills within us some expectation that we are not alone, and we wonder if there is not something amazing happening out there somewhere. This sense of awe may not be exclusive to Earthlings; for in a galaxy truly far away, there could be creatures with similar musings as they peer towards our corner of the Universe. The idea that we share a common experience with others in the cosmos is something to keep in mind while reading this book.

Chapter Overview

Introduction

Chapter 1: Setting the Stage for Life and Civilization

Chapter 2: Evolution and the Building Blocks of Life

Chapter 3: The Rise of Civilization on Earth

Chapter 4: The Engine of Modern Civilization

Chapter 5: A House of Cards: The Downfall of Civilization

Chapter 6: Exploring the Cosmos

Chapter 7: The Boundaries of Habitability (Habitable Zones)

Chapter 8: The Scale of Things

Chapter 9: Is Anybody Out There?

Summary

“The surface of the Earth is the shore of the cosmic ocean. From it we have learned most of what we know. Recently, we have waded a little out to sea, enough to dampen our toes or, at most, wet our ankles. The water seems inviting. The ocean calls.” - Carl Sagan

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Customer Reviews

Very good

very well written. enjoyed the book

I gave this five stars for the ingenuity, creativity, and approach to the subject matter, but this guy needs to be watched with a close eye. This book was an insidious blow to my preconceptions. Mathew writes in a style that draws you in, engages your mind, and then - without warning - feeds you knowledge you neither wanted nor asked for. Worse, everything is written in very simple and easy to understand language, making blind rejection of anything he presents to be almost impossible. What kind of person does that? If I wanted to grow as a person I would eat more spinach and get regular sleep. Thanks to Mathew, I now have more questions about a universe I was previously content not giving a single hoot about. He talks about things like "a collective sense of hope and drive to improve the whole of society" which gets us what? A new society? A better society? Could you imagine where we'd be if everyone was constantly thinking about the ramifications of their actions and the Big Picture? You'd have a world where comedy SUCKS. Dennis Leary would be out of a job. Henry Rollins and Jello Biafra... the end of spoken word rants. Might as well just rip the stages out of night clubs and bars. THANKS, MATHEW. This book is dangerous and should be banned. Don't buy it. Don't read it. Don't tell anyone about it.

This is really a great book, whether or not you know much about not only our world but what is out in the cosmos, you will learn something in this collection of informative text. The author has done a lot

of work and readers should be thankful, because now they can learn so much in this book packed full of knowledge. The writing is well done and concise. I found the book interesting, well written and definitely one to grab.

The author puts forth a good effort, but lacks the writing skills to create a great book. Professional editing would help. Also, many "facts" that the author puts forth are simply false and poorly researched. From the "millions" who died at Chernobyl to the "Air Force" Captain (he was a Marine) in Independence Day. The premise of the book was good, the execution, not so much. I'm confident that the writer will improve with his future efforts and with the help of a skilled editor.

This is a great read. I was particularly interested in the chapters having to do with the search for life elsewhere in the universe. Mathew was able to distill an enormous amount of information to tell "our cosmic story" and give an overview that is engaging and easy to read. Buying this book is a no-brainer.

Really enjoyed this book. Very clearly written and easily understood. This book makes you think. When we look around it's easy to see what mankind could become but very scary to see what we appear to be doing to ourselves. It looks like the biggest threat to our survival is us. Isn't there a line from a cartoon character that says, "we have met the enemy and it is us".

This book is a great introduction to the topics of human civilizations throughout history, sustainability of our current world, and astrobiology - covering the formation of life here on Earth, the future of life, and explores the search for life elsewhere in the Universe. The book covers a wide range of topics, but does not delve too deeply into any one of them, which makes sense since there are probably thousands of books on each of these subjects alone. The overall tone is cautiously optimistic, yet light-hearted, and shies away from sounding like a dry, old textbook, and more like an engaging philosophical conversation you would have with a friend while star-gazing. Our Cosmic Story provides an effective big picture view of the aforementioned topics, and is a nice starting point for anyone looking to learn more about any of these topics, much in the same vein as *ÃÂ Cosmos*. Take some time to reflect upon how small we really are in this grand Universe with this book!

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