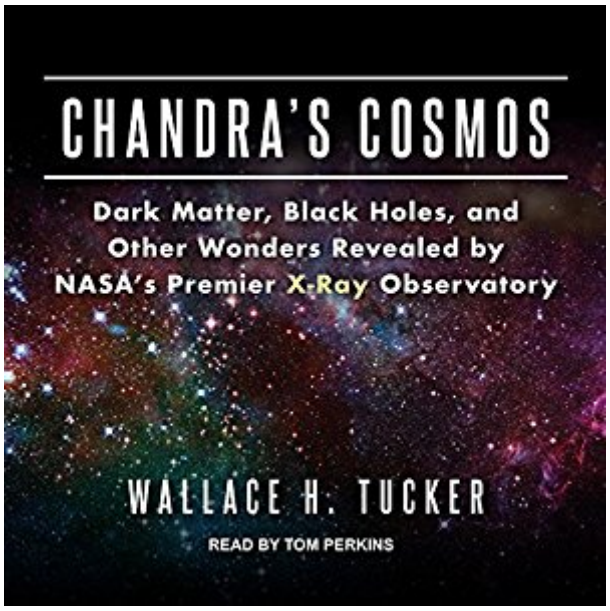
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Chandra's Cosmos: Dark Matter, Black Holes, And Other Wonders Revealed By NASA's Premier X-Ray Observatory



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Synopsis

On July 23, 1999, the Chandra X-Ray Observatory, the most powerful X-ray telescope ever built, was launched aboard the space shuttle Columbia. Since then, Chandra has given us a view of the universe that is largely hidden from telescopes sensitive only to visible light. In Chandra's Cosmos, Wallace H. Tucker uses a series of short, connected stories to describe the telescope's exploration of the hot, high-energy face of the universe. The book is organized in three parts: The Big, covering the cosmic web, dark energy, dark matter, and massive clusters of galaxies; The Bad, exploring neutron stars, stellar black holes, and supermassive black holes; and The Beautiful, discussing stars, exoplanets, and life. Chandra has imaged the spectacular, glowing remains of exploded stars and taken spectra showing the dispersal of their elements. Chandra has observed the region around the supermassive black hole in the center of our Milky Way and traced the separation of dark matter from normal matter in the collision of galaxies. Tucker explores the implications of these observations in an entertaining, informative narrative aimed at space buffs and general listeners alike.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The book is a pleasure to read. I bought it to get a feel for some of the orbiting obervatories capabilities and in particular Chandra's X-ray contributions. Of course, we're more familiar with Hubble's mission, and everyone is looking forward to seeing some of the discoveries of the James Webb Observatory, but it seems now is the time to appreciate Chandra, Spitzer, etal.. Wallace Tucker writes well and takes the reader through the development, deployment and discoveries of

Chandra with vivid images and excellent descriptions.

I have enjoyed this book a lot. Written well and very understandable. Thanks for you excellent service.

IÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ve been interested in Astronomy since I saw a youth program at the Enoch Pratt Fee Library in Baltimore over 60 years ago. I told my parents that I wanted to become an astronomer but that never happened. Oddly enough though IÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ve always held a place in my heart for this subject. Chandra's Cosmos: Dark Matter, Black Holes, and Other Wonders Revealed by NASA's Premier X-Ray Observatory is a book that presents the findings of the Chandra X-ray telescope and conveys them in (mostly) understandable word pictures by author Wallace H. Tucker. Readers with a casual background in the subject probably have enough knowledge to follow the science contained herein. I have a scant two semesters in community college level astronomy and had no problem.The books is divided into three major sections, namely: The Big, The Bad, and The Beautiful. It is evident from page one that the author not only loves his subject but is gifted in sharing and explaining this subject to the public at large.
HeÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s a gifted teacher and a spokesman for the Smithsonian Astrophysical ObservatoryÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s Chandra X-Ray Center.The section ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“BigÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• deals with Galaxy Clusters, Dark Matter and the Cosmic Web. The author punctuates many of his chapters with surprising yet apropos epigrams such as the chapter titles ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“The Wonderful and Fearful Dark SideÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•. His epigram for this is ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Deep into that darkness peering, long I stood there wondering, fearingÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• from Edgar Allen PoeÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s The Raven. What an interesting and humorous segue.Section ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“BadÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• has such enticing topics as: Downtown Milky Way and Ducks Unlimited. Ducks Unlimited deals with ChandraÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s Deep Field South project. To date about a thousand X-ray sources have been detected, about 70 percent of which contain supermassive black holes.The final section is The Beautiful. This sections seals with the beauty of renewal of the Cosmos. Chandra is in her 18th year of operation and still in good health, her human partners optimistic and in good spirits. This is a well written and formatted book that can be enjoyed by the scientific and lay audience alike.

This is a fascinating book! If you are interested in outer space and all that is what "outer space" is, then you will find this book extremely interesting. I got the book without any color photos (for reviews

only) but you should be getting a book with color photos. I still liked looking at the photos but I found the reading to be the most educational.The writing is very readable in that it's not quite college-text book, but you will have to actually think about what you're reading. I sometimes re-read a sentence to be sure I got it correctly. A LOT of information is given and it's not like reading a novel. The author has a good sense of humor and makes reading quite enjoyable.I highly recommend this book to anyone who is studying or interested in the Chandra Space telescope and how it and the other space telescopes work in tandem to produce wonderful pictures in various light frequencies, giving a richer understanding of what is beyond our earth's atmosphere.

Dr. Tucker's latest book is an interesting explanation of some of the important discoveries of the Chandra X-Ray Telescope/Satellite operated by NASA. The author never explicitly makes the case for further funding for such projects, but that seems to be implicit in the text. The text is only a bit technical and makes a great introduction to current research in astrophysics.The book is divided into three sections that generally deal with dark matter, black holes, and star formation. Each section is divided into multiple chapters that contain interesting analysis of various topics in astrophysics including cosmology. My review copy is an uncorrected proof and so the photographs are in black and white. Nevertheless I feel confident in predicting that the color photographs in the final version will be spectacular.The author sometimes uses technical language to describe some phenomenon a page or two before he explains the language and some of the chapters seem repetitious. The penultimate chapter is a meditation on change and concludes with a personal account of the author's thesis advisor, Geoffrey Burbidge. It would have made a good final chapter in the book. This reader would have liked a brief summary about the satellite telescope itself. However interested readers can see Tucker's bookÃ Â Revealing the Universe: The Making of the Chandra X-ray Observatory.

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