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Brian Greene: The Kindle Singles Interview (Kindle Single)



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Synopsis

In this exclusive Kindle Singles Interview, celebrated physicist and author Brian Greene (The Elegant Universe, The Fabric of the Cosmos) discusses the origins of string theory, Einstein’s cosmological misstep, how to picture the nothingness of empty space, the triumph of the Higgs boson, and how a baseball hanging from the ceiling by a piece of chewing gum became a pivotal moment in his scientific career. Greene, who recently launched World Science U, which offers free online science courses, explains what it is that’s so "elegant" about string theory while lamenting the possible limits of what dogs (and by implication humans) can ever hope to understand about the universe.The interview was conducted by Rivka Galchen, an acclaimed fiction writer and journalist, named by The New Yorker as one of 20 Writers Under 40.Cover design by Adil Dara Kim.

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Customer Reviews

The book left me wanting more. I truly enjoyed it and searched out the web site mentioned (get the book to find out) and listen/view free courses on String Theory and Relativity and much more. I immediately went in search of more science and math material since the topics discussed whet my appetite and peaked my interest. This was my first book where a well-known scientist and author is

interviewed. It is great to get a sense of their personality and interests and comments on the field of science. It reminded me of why I love science and math history books and should get back to reading more material in that area.

It has the limitations of interviews: you cannot talk deeply about nothing and just draw sketches of your thoughts. But as a general way to get references to investigate more then it's a wonderful gate to travel new oceans of knowledge.

The most interesting concept to come out of this interview is that space can tear, be "cut" or ripped. I still have no idea what is missing when Greene talks about understanding the math of string theory better, that features are missing. I picture it in my head as a 3D object, like a map of neurons, composed of yellow mathematical symbols when you zoom in on a any one piece and I'm guessing the picture isn't yet complete let alone resembling anything recognizable or elegant and still requires number crunchers like Greene to finish the tapestry but something is standing in their way or slowing them down. Big numbers I would assume but he never really says. I'd also like to better understand the implications of the Higgs Field and what it means in the bigger picture, what could we do with it if we had an anti-boson device? Travel space or other dimensions in the blink of an eye? Phase through solid objects? I don't know but I want to and that is Greene's greatest gift.

Professor Greene strings his passion in a way that a fallen scientist can hear the music of science and be called back into its folds. This interview made me regret taking the advice I probably wished to hear from my college academic advisor that Calculus might be too challenging (perhaps his projection or imposed gender bias in 1972) and that it wasn't required nor useful for me in my chosen field. it inspires in me a little light of desire to take up theoretical physics or nuclear chemistry as an avocation. One disappointment was that the interview seemed to abruptly end as if the pages were read at the verge of the black hole and then we were in it, but sensing the end after it rather than anticipating its presence before.

Brian Greene does an excellent job of explaining the research in the field of string theory, but I still feel that he's making too many excuses for the fact that there is absolutely no experimental or observational evidence to support it. Richard Feynman would not approve.

Rivka Galchen's gift for asking all the right questions and Dr. Greene's passion for physics and his

talent for discussing complex topics in an exciting, accessible way are an irresistible combination for an interested lay person like me. Easily polished this off in one sitting and emerged from the last page wanting more. Luckily I also learned about World Science U via this interview and am now happily working my way through Dr. Greene's fascinating special relativity course offered there for free. At 99 cents, this interview is an incredible value, and from one armchair-physicist wannabe to another, highly recommended.

The interviewer does a great job of bring out the best of Brian Greene in telling the story of the Universe which he does in several books he wrote and now discusses the NET STEP in the search for a unified theory, the role the Higgs Boson plays , The the things that are now bordering on Philosophy etc. Easy to follow and he presents some of his VIEWS on what to expect in the future.

Brian Greene is one of the physicist most able to capture the essence of complicated concepts in physics and explain them in a way that the ordinary layman can at least follow if he has a moderate or meconium of intelligence. It's a single and it's an interview but it still valuable.

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