



The Universal Book of Astronomy: From the Andromeda Galaxy to the Zone of Avoidance

By David Darling

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The Universal Book of Astronomy: From the Andromeda Galaxy to the Zone of Avoidance By David Darling

The ultimate guide to the final frontier

This alphabetical tour of the universe provides all the history, science, and up-to-the-minute facts needed to explore the skies with authority. Packed with more than 3,000 entries that cover everything from major observatories and space telescopes to biographies of astronomers throughout the ages, it showcases an extraordinary array of newfound wonders, including microquasars, brown dwarfs, and dark energy, as well as a host of individual comets, asteroids, moons, planets, stars, nebulas, and galaxies. Featuring nearly 200 illustrations and eight pages of color photographs, this comprehensive guide provides easy lookup of topics and offers more in-depth information than can be found in existing star guides or astronomy dictionaries. It's an ideal resource for the amateur astronomer or anyone with an interest in the mysteries of the cosmos.

David Darling, PhD (Brainerd, MN), is the author of *The Complete Book of Spaceflight* (0-471-05649-9) and *Equations of Eternity*, a New York Times Notable Book.

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Editorial Review

Review

* ""...a serious contender in the dictionary market...worthy of consideration by anyone looking for an A-Z of astronomy..." (*The Observatory*, Vol 124(1181), August 2004)

Science writer Darling (*The Complete Book of Spaceflight; Equations of Eternity*) has created a first-rate resource for readers and students of popular astronomy and general science. Unlike *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Amateur Astronomy*—which is excellent but really written as a textbook for observers—*The Universal Book* is a true encyclopedia, with over 3000 alphabetically arranged entries covering history, biography, celestial objects, cosmological phenomena, and more. Some entries are brief, providing good, simple definitions of terms readers may encounter in books and articles geared toward the amateur astronomer. Other entries, when the topics warrant, provide more in-depth information and photos or illustrations. As a whole, the entries are written in a spare style that is easily understood but never dumbed down. This work addresses all the subdisciplines of astronomy, as would a less-expensive dictionary of astronomy, but offers more detail and fills the information gaps that exist in many skywatchers' field guides. Darling's introduction includes notes for using the book and a brief explanation of exponential notation and units. A list of references, related web sites, and a category index (all unseen by this reviewer) should make this an even more useful reference. Highly recommended for public libraries and essential for high school and undergraduate college libraries supporting general science, astronomy, and physics courses, —Denise Hamilton, Heritage Christian Sch., Rindge, NH (*Library Journal*, November 15, 2003 (starred reviewed))

""...a comprehensive survey and...a rare treat..." (*Focus*, March 2004)

From the Inside Flap

Breakthroughs in astronomy seem to be emerging almost as rapidly as the universe itself is expanding. In just the past few years, scores of planets have been discovered, large amounts of ice and possibly liquid water have been found on Mars, dark energy has joined dark matter as a likely chief ingredient of the universe, and we have added more brown dwarfs, microquasars, and magnetars to an already extraordinary cosmic menagerie. With discoveries occurring at meteoric speeds, it's hard even for professional astronomers—let alone fascinated stargazers—to keep track of all the developments. David Darling's *The Universal Book of Astronomy* provides all the history, science, and up-to-the-minute facts you need to explore the skies with authority and with awe.

A perfect complement to Darling's *Complete Book of Spaceflight*, *The Universal Book of Astronomy* provides an alphabetical tour of the universe. More than 3,000 extensively cross-referenced entries span everything from astronomical societies and major observatories to historical biographies of key astronomers, and include a host of individual comets, asteroids, meteorites, moons, planets, constellations, nebulae, and galaxies. Entries include:

- Arches cluster: A group of about 150 hot, young stars crammed within a volume of space roughly one light-year across near the center of the galaxy.
- Cape York meteorite: A huge iron meteorite that landed more than 1,000 years ago in Cape York, West Greenland. Of the three pieces that landed, the Ahnighito chunk weighs 31 tons and is the largest meteorite on display in any museum in the world.

- Castalia: An Earth-crossing and potentially hazardous asteroid that is a member of the Apollo group.
- Crab nebula: The most famous and conspicuous known supernova remnant; it is the centuries-old wreckage of a stellar explosion first noted by Chinese astronomers on July 4, 1054.
- Donati's comet: Discovered by Giovanni Donati on June 2, 1858, it is one of the brightest and most visible comets of the nineteenth century, last seen on March 4, 1859.
- Fireball: A meteor that is brighter than any planet or star, with an apparent magnitude of -5 or greater.
- Galaxy cannibalism: The swallowing of a smaller galaxy by a much larger one.
- Stephen Hawking: The English theoretical astrophysicist and cosmologist famed for his work on black holes and the origin of the universe.
- United Kingdom Infrared Telescope (UKIRT): A 3.8-m telescope that is the world's largest dedicated solely to infrared astronomy.

From the Back Cover

A dynamic, alphabetical tour of our mysterious universe—from the A Star to the ZZ Ceti Star and everything in between

"We are all part of this astonishing creation—our very bodies fashioned of atoms that were made inside giant stars long ago. Bring only your imagination and the courage needed to gaze up and out across 1.5 billion light-years!"

—From the Introduction

The Universal Book of Astronomy compiles more than 3,000 extensively cross-referenced entries to cover every noted star, planet, authority, and telescope that has influenced our modern understanding of the universe. Spanning everything from major observatories and space telescopes to biographies of astronomers throughout the centuries, The Universal Book of Astronomy showcases an extraordinary array of newfound wonders, including microquasars, brown dwarfs, and dark energy, as well as a host of individual comets, asteroids, moons, planets, stars, nebulas, and galaxies. A one-stop reference for the seasoned astronomer as well as the starry-eyed layperson, The Universal Book of Astronomy is further complemented by:

- More than 200 illustrations throughout
- Eight vibrant pages of color photographs
- Succinct articles on astronomy's esteemed history and technology
- The fascinating biographies of those who shaped, and continue to shape, our knowledge of this infinite universe

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Shawn Marsh:

Here thing why this The Universal Book of Astronomy: From the Andromeda Galaxy to the Zone of Avoidance are different and trustworthy to be yours. First of all reading through a book is good nonetheless it depends in the content of it which is the content is as scrumptious as food or not. The Universal Book of Astronomy: From the Andromeda Galaxy to the Zone of Avoidance giving you information deeper and in different ways, you can find any guide out there but there is no book that similar with The Universal Book of Astronomy: From the Andromeda Galaxy to the Zone of Avoidance. It gives you thrill reading journey, its open up your current eyes about the thing that happened in the world which is possibly can be happened around you. You can bring everywhere like in park, café, or even in your way home by train. For anyone

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