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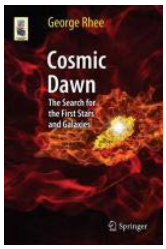
Book Review: Cosmic Dawn: The Search for the First Stars and Galaxies

T. D. Oswalt
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, oswaltt1@erau.edu

Cosmic dawn : the search for the first stars and galaxies



Rhee, George. Springer, 2013

279p, 9781461478126 $39.99, 9781461478133 $29.99
LC Call Number: QB4

The search for the first generation of stars to form out of the cooling expanding gas following the big bang is the central theme of *Cosmic Dawn*. The finite speed of light theoretically makes it possible to look back in time to that very moment. However, this era corresponds to vast distances; therefore, such objects are exceedingly dim. Rhee (Univ. of Nevada) begins the book with a discussion of humankind's historical attempts to find our place and time in the universe. While exploring the evidence that the universe began with an unimaginably huge explosion, the author also gives a pretty good primer on astronomy. The relatively recent discovery of dark matter and dark energy and what they imply for the present structure and future evolution of the universe is also very well described. *Cosmic Dawn* closes with a chapter asserting that the quest for the first generation of stars is likely to be accomplished during this decade, using new ground- and space-based telescopes. Part of the "Astronomers' Universe" series, this is one of the most readable books on cosmology around. Anyone with an interest in science will enjoy it.

Summing Up: Highly recommended. All readership levels.

Reviewer: T. D. Oswalt, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
Recommendation: Highly recommended
Readership Level: All Readership Levels, General Readers, Lower-division Undergraduates, Upper-division Undergraduates, Graduate Students, Researchers/Faculty, Two-Year Technical Program Students, Professionals/Practitioners
Interdisciplinary Subjects:
Subject: Science & Technology - Astronautics & Astronomy
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