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Book Review: Weird Worlds: Bizarre Bodies of the Solar System and Beyond

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Weird worlds: bizarre bodies of the solar system and beyond

309p, 1461470633 $34.95, 9781461470632 $34.95
LC Call Number: QB44

_Weird Worlds_ is the third in Seargent's series of books (_Weird Weather_, 2012; _Weird Astronomy_, 2011) about unusual scientific topics, enthusiastically presented in a historical context and liberally sprinkled with the latest space mission results. Seargent (Australian Sky and Telescope) begins with the most curious features of the major planets, and then leads readers to some of the innumerable minor bodies in the solar system, such as asteroids, comets, moons, Kuiper Belt objects, and dwarf planets like Pluto and Ceres. On some worlds, there are hurricanes larger than the Earth, geysers powered by evaporating dry ice, or rivers of liquid methane. Others are believed to have oceans under miles-thick ice that may even harbor life. Seargent concludes by describing some of the weirder properties of the thousands of exoplanets now known to exist around other stars. Some are so close to their stars that they are evaporating. Others may even be habitable "super Earths." The theme throughout is that every world is unique. Each chapter includes bonus "do it yourself" activities anyone can try. While _Weird Worlds_ is certainly an excellent introduction to planetary science, it is really a tour guide of the solar system--and beyond.

Summing Up: Recommended. All levels/libraries.

Reviewer: T. D. Oswalt, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
Recommendation: 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: Science & Technology - Astronautics & Astronomy