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

T. D. Oswalt

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, oswaltt1@erau.edu

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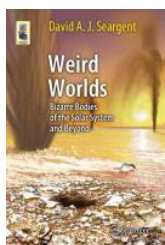
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Weird worlds : bizarre bodies of the solar system and beyond



Seargent, David A. J. Springer, 2013

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:

Subject: [Science & Technology - Astronautics & Astronomy](#)