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Book Review: Chandra's Cosmos: Dark Matter, Black Holes, and Other Wonders Revealed by NASA's Premier X-Ray Observatory

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Chandra's cosmos : dark matter, black holes, and other wonders revealed

by NASA's premier X-ray observatory



Tucker, Wallace H. Smithsonian Books, 2017

266p bibl index, 9781588345875 \$29.95, 9781588345882

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"Peering deep and long into the darkness is what astronomers do," says Tucker, a professional astronomer, a science journalist, and the science spokesperson for the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory's Chandra X-Ray Center. Few instruments have peered as deep into darkness as NASA's Chandra X-ray Observatory, launched in 1999. This is a beautiful book about some of the most amazing discoveries made by one of NASA's flagship observatories. It is richly illustrated with images and diagrams that are well-explained in simple terms and written in Tucker's easy-to-follow, conversational style. The book's main theme is that access to the X-ray region has given astronomers key information on a host of "hot" topics in astronomy, ranging from white dwarf stars and supernovas to the monster black holes at the heart of most or all galaxies like our own. Chandra observations have also provided key clues to current astronomical puzzles, such as dark matter and dark energy. This book introduces readers to all these topics and more. It is also a good general introduction to astronomy, albeit presented in a nontraditional yet very engaging, order.

Summing Up: Highly recommended. All readers.

Reviewer: T. D. Oswalt, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

Recommendation: Highly recommended

Readership Level: All Readership Levels

Interdisciplinary Subjects:

Subject: Science & Technology - Astronautics & Astronomy

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