

Extraterrestrial Civilizations Isaac Asimov

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Isaac Asimov's Guide to Earth and Space
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Superintelligence

The human brain has some capabilities that the brains of other animals lack. It is to these distinctive capabilities that our species owes its dominant

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position. Other animals have stronger muscles or sharper claws, but we have cleverer brains. If machine brains one day come to surpass human brains in general intelligence, then this new superintelligence could become very powerful. As the fate of the gorillas now depends more on us humans than on the gorillas themselves, so the fate of our species then would come to depend on the actions of the machine superintelligence. But we have one advantage: we get to make the first move. Will it be possible to construct a seed AI or otherwise to engineer initial conditions so as to make an intelligence explosion survivable? How could one achieve a controlled detonation? To get closer to an answer to this question, we must make our way through a fascinating landscape of topics and considerations. Read the book and learn about oracles, genies, singletons; about boxing methods, tripwires, and mind crime; about humanity's cosmic endowment and differential technological development; indirect normativity, instrumental convergence, whole brain emulation and technology couplings; Malthusian economics and dystopian evolution; artificial intelligence, and biological cognitive enhancement, and collective intelligence.

Worlds Within Worlds

Gathers essays on the future, space exploration, science, technology, history, human nature, politics, peace, psychology, and ethics

The Roving Mind

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One of the world's leading scientists explains why—and how—the search for intelligent life beyond Earth should be expanded. Fifty years ago, a young astronomer named Frank Drake first pointed a radio telescope at nearby stars in the hope of picking up a signal from an alien civilization. Thus began one of the boldest scientific projects in history, the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI). After a half-century of scanning the skies, however, astronomers have little to report but an eerie silence—eerie because many scientists are convinced that the universe is teeming with life. Physicist and astrobiologist Paul Davies has been closely involved with SETI for three decades and chairs the SETI Post-Detection Taskgroup, charged with deciding what to do if we're suddenly confronted with evidence of alien intelligence. He believes the search so far has fallen into an anthropocentric trap—assuming that an alien species will look, think, and behave much like us. In this provocative book Davies refocuses the search, challenging existing ideas of what form an alien intelligence might take, how it might try to communicate with us, and how we should respond if it does.

Contact

Amusing, irreverent, sophisticated and highly accessible, *Einstein for Beginners* is the perfect introduction to Einstein's life and thought. Reaching back as far as Babylon (for the origins of mathematics) and the Etruscans (who thought they could handle lightning), this book takes us through

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the revolutions in electrical communications and technology that made the theory of relativity possible. In the process, we meet scientific luminaries and personalities of imperial Germany, as well as Galileo, Faraday, and Newton; learn why moving clocks run slower than stationary ones, why nothing can go faster than the speed of light; and follow Albert's thought as he works his way toward $E = mc^2$, the most famous equation of the twentieth century.

Light of the Stars: Alien Worlds and the Fate of the Earth

Winner of the 2019 Phi Beta Kappa Award for Science "A valuable perspective on the most important problem of our time." —Adam Becker, NPR Light of the Stars tells the story of humanity's coming of age as we realize we might not be alone in this universe. Astrophysicist Adam Frank traces the question of alien life from the ancient Greeks to modern thinkers, and he demonstrates that recognizing the possibility of its existence might be the key to save us from climate change. With clarity and conviction, Light of the Stars asks the consequential question: What can the likely presence of life on other planets tell us about our own fate?

The Mammoth Encyclopedia of Extraterrestrial Encounters

At first it seemed impossible - a radio signal that came not from Earth but from far beyond the nearest stars. But then the signal was translated, and what

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had been impossible became terrifying. For the signal contains the information to build a Machine that can travel to the stars. A Machine that can take a human to meet those that sent the message. They are eager to meet us: they have been watching and waiting for a long time. And now they will judge.

Foundations of Meaning

For the first time in history, humans are learning to produce and control nuclear energy -- the energy that, in the form of sunlight, has served humankind for it's entire existence. With fossil fuel supplies dwindling, concerned citizens, no matter how scant their scientific knowledge, must understand this enormous force. Book jacket.

The Tragedy of the Moon

Lije Baley and R. Daneel Olivaw, a robot, investigate the murders of a famous robotocist, an isolated inhabitant of Solaria, and Jander Panell, an advanced robot

Odyssey

Three classic tales of space adventure - The Stars, Like Dust; The Currents of Space; and Pebble in the Sky.

The Listeners

"A totally new and original work that stretches his talents to their fullest . . . welcome back,

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champ!”—The Detroit News In the twenty-third century pioneers have escaped the crowded earth for life in self-sustaining orbital colonies. One of the colonies, Rotor, has broken away from the solar system to create its own renegade utopia around an unknown red star two light-years from Earth: a star named Nemesis. Now a fifteen-year-old Rotorian girl has learned of the dire threat that nemesis poses to Earth’s people—but she is prevented from warning them. Soon she will realize that Nemesis endangers Rotor as well. And so it will be up to her alone to save both Earth and Rotor as—drawn inexorably by Nemesis, the death star—they hurtle toward certain disaster.

Starship Troopers

Isaac Asimov concludes that we are not alone! Using the most up-to-date astronomical research as the backdrop for speculation, Asimov confronts the possibilities of other-worldly life head-on in Extraterrestrial Civilizations. In what will surely become one of the most provocative books ever written on the possibilities of life elsewhere in the universe, the incomparable Isaac Asimov provides chilling, hopeful, and exciting new insights. Here is astounding speculation about where the next giant step for mankind will take us. . . . Praise for Extraterrestrial Civilizations “[Isaac] Asimov holds our attention as he builds a meticulous case. We are not alone. It’s just a matter of time until we know for sure.”—Miami Herald "Intriguing"—Publishers Weekly

Conversations with Isaac Asimov

A thrilling nonfiction tour of the cosmos that brings the universe down to Earth, from one of the all-time masters of science fiction. No one makes sense out of science like Isaac Asimov. Are you puzzled by pulsars? Baffled by black holes? Bewildered by the big bang? If so, here are succinct, crystal-clear answers to more than one hundred of the most significant questions about the essential nature of the universe—questions that have fired the imagination since the beginning of history. Over the course of this fantastic voyage, the origins, the discoveries, and the stunning achievements of astronomy will unfold before your eyes. You will experience close encounters with giant planets, exploding stars, distant galaxies, and more. For anyone who has ever asked the ultimate questions, who has ever looked up at the sky and asked What in heaven is going on?, Isaac Asimov's unique vision, skill, and authority will bring the big picture into focus. "A fine introduction to modern astronomical theory."—Library Journal

Extraterrestrial Altruism

In a futuristic military adventure a recruit goes through the roughest boot camp in the universe and into battle with the Terran Mobile Infantry in what historians would come to call the First Interstellar War

The War of the Worlds

All essays in this volume are reprinted from the

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Magazine of fantasy and science fiction.

Intelligent Life in the Universe

An amnesia victim stranded on an asteroid has only robots to turn to for assistance in finding out who and where he is

Earth

Extraterrestrial Civilizations

Detailed, scholarly study examines the ideas that developed between 1750 and 1900 regarding the existence of intelligent extraterrestrial life, including those of Kant, Herschel, Voltaire, Lowell, many others. 16 illustrations.

Vast Universe

Summary: Discusses the problems faced by the Earth's inhabitants as population increases and energy sources, food, and land become more scarce.

The Extraterrestrial Life Debate, 1750-1900

It has been argued that science fiction (SF) gives a kind of weather forecast - not the telling of a fortune but rather the rough feeling of what the future might be like. The intention in this book is to consider some of these bygone forecasts made by SF and to use this

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as a prism through which to view current developments in science and technology. In each of the ten main chapters - dealing in turn with antigravity, space travel, aliens, time travel, the nature of reality, invisibility, robots, means of transportation, augmentation of the human body, and, last but not least, mad scientists - common assumptions once made by the SF community about how the future would turn out are compared with our modern understanding of various scientific phenomena and, in some cases, with the industrial scaling of computational and technological breakthroughs. A further intention is to explain how the predictions and expectations of SF were rooted in the scientific orthodoxy of their day, and use this to explore how our scientific understanding of various topics has developed over time, as well as to demonstrate how the ideas popularized in SF subsequently influenced working scientists. Since gaining a BSc in physics from the University of Bristol and a PhD in theoretical physics from the University of Manchester, Stephen Webb has worked in a variety of universities in the UK. He is a regular contributor to the Yearbook of Astronomy series and has published an undergraduate textbook on distance determination in astronomy and cosmology as well as several popular science books.

Carl Sagan's Cosmic Connection

In MARGINS OF PHILOSOPHY, while discussing the challenge before phenomenology, Jacques Derrida speaks of the ground of signification and the pedestal

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of silence, but his two very apt phrases also apply to the ENTIRE human project of understanding ourselves and the multiverse the aim of THIS book. In other words, FOUNDATIONS OF MEANING expresses the ENTIRE range of human experience in the multiverse: dream-speak, stream-of-consciousness, dialog, storytelling, analysis, synthesis, meditation, music, and so on synergized into a polyphony that resonates in frequencies that no one mode (from science to mysticism) can attain alone because all such modes reject one another and thus limit their effectiveness. In other words, as inclusive and multicultural societies are the most advanced and best-prepared for the future, so FOUNDATIONS OF MEANING heals the rifts separating the many human disciplines, synergizes the many human modes of expression, focuses our aims as a civilization whose inner ANGELS have been at war with our inner DEMONS, and shows how guarded optimism and free thought can empower humanity to mature and spread across this galaxy and then on to others ad infinitum.

If the Universe Is Teeming with Aliens WHERE IS EVERYBODY?

Einstein for Beginners

A comprehensive revision to the textbook on modern psychiatric diagnosis and treatment, keyed to the DSM-5 and ICD-10. Long considered a leading text on the assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of psychiatric disorders, this latest revision includes

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cutting-edge updates in neuroscience, psychopharmacology, and genetics. Geared to resident students in psychiatry and related disciplines, it makes practical, readable sense of the field.

Astrobiology, Discovery, and Societal Impact

Is There Life on Other Planets?

"Williams's debut novel is hard SF at its best."
—Robert J. Sawyer, Hugo Award-winning author of "Quantum Night" "Eternal Shadow reads like a Michael Crichton sci-fi thriller..." 4.5/5 Stars. —San Francisco Review "Fans of the hard science fiction of Andy Weir (The Martian) and Isaac Asimov... will have their eyes glued to the pages." 4.9/5 Stars.
—IndieReader "When apocalyptic disaster looms, humanity turns to science and technology in this well-crafted tale." —Kirkus Review "...A thoughtful, intelligent portrait of humanity's first contact with extraterrestrial life." —Foreward Reviews
What would you do if the world was going to end in ten years? For Jennifer Epstein, a by-the-books senior researcher at SETI, there is only one answer: prevent the apocalypse from happening. Pluto, Neptune, and Uranus were destroyed by an alien threat. The deck was stacked against humanity before the cards came out of the box. But Jennifer isn't alone. She has Samantha Monroe, her excitable but brilliant colleague. From South Africa, CEO Muzikayise Khulu

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of Khulu Global supplies his vast resources to the ultimate race for survival. The three find themselves in an unlikely alliance while political brinkmanship, doomsday cults, and untested technologies form ever-growing obstacles. Will humanity unite to face the greatest challenge of their time, or will it destroy itself before the alien ship arrives?

Essential Psychopathology & Its Treatment (Fourth Edition)

A classic book by the world's most famous scientist and science visionary, back in print with a new perspective.

The Tyrannosaurus Prescription and 100 Other Essays

If we have learned anything from recent advances in cosmology and astronomy, it is that we have only barely begun to comprehend the vastness of our universe and all that it contains. For Christians, this raises some fascinating questions: If there are intelligent beings out there, what would be their relationship to what Christianity claims is a special history on Earth of life with God? Would the fact of persons on other planets banish or modify our understanding of God? Would it reduce the importance of Jesus? What role might goodness and evil play in extraterrestrial civilizations? Might God have incarnated himself among other races of creatures, as he became incarnate as Jesus among us? Respectful of the sciences that disclose the reality

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of the universe, Thomas O'Meara wonders about good and evil, intelligence and freedom, revelation and life as they might exist in other galaxies. In this book, one possible aspect of the universe we live in meets the perspective of Christian revelation.

In Memory Yet Green

Brought back to the mortal plane by sorcery, the Norse Gods joined the battlefields of World War II leading to major Nazi victories, but with the war still raging a generation later, the final battle lines are being drawn.

The Road to Infinity

Extraterrestrial Altruism examines a basic assumption of the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI): that extraterrestrials will be transmitting messages to us for our benefit. This question of whether extraterrestrials will be altruistic has become increasingly important in recent years as SETI scientists have begun contemplating transmissions from Earth to make contact. Technological civilizations that transmit signals for the benefit of others, but with no immediate gain for themselves, certainly seem to be altruistic. But does this make biological sense? Should we expect altruism to evolve throughout the cosmos, or is this only wishful thinking? Is it dangerous to send messages to other worlds, as Stephen Hawking has suggested, or might humankind benefit from an exchange with intelligence elsewhere in the galaxy? Would

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extraterrestrial societies be based on different ethical principles, or would we see commonalities with Earthly notions of morality? *Extraterrestrial Altruism* explores these and related questions about the motivations of civilizations beyond Earth, providing new insights that are critical for SETI. Chapters are authored by leading scholars from diverse disciplines—anthropology, astronomy, biology, chemistry, computer science, cosmology, engineering, history of science, law, philosophy, psychology, public policy, and sociology. The book is carefully edited by Douglas Vakoch, Director of Interstellar Message Composition at the SETI Institute and professor of clinical psychology at the California Institute of Integral Studies. The Foreword is by Frank Drake. This interdisciplinary book will benefit everybody trying to understand whether evolution and ethics are unique to Earth, or whether they are built into the fabric of the universe.

All the Wonder that Would Be

After fifty-one long years of patient waiting, the message has finally arrived. They have dedicated their lives to trying to decipher the eerie silence that resounds from space and now there is finally a sound after decades of quiet. In the beginning there is a hail of celebration - the Project has finally produced results - but then the questions begin. What does the message mean? Could it be 'We come in peace' or 'Get ready for world domination'? The message baffles Earth. Only one man has the power to make the decision and it could mean intergalactic warfare if

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he makes the wrong choice. Director MacDonald holds in his hands the fate of Earth, the universe and the Project, which is dedicated to answering questions that have plagued humanity for centuries. Will he make the correct choice?

Fantastic Voyage

An illustrated A-to-Z guide to all things alien. Over 400 entries from more than 100 contributors cover everything from the incidents and witnesses involved to the concepts at stake and experts' personal position statements. Entries range from alien abductions, the Fantasy Prone hypothesis and JAL Flight no 1628, to the Lakenheath-Bentwaters Episode, mind control by aliens and Roswell. The contributors include: Isaac Asimov, Jerome Clark, Erich von Daniken, Peter Davenport, Hilary Evans, Timothy Good, Marvin Kottmeyer, Jenny Randles, Carl Sagan, Whitley Streiber and Jacques Vallee. There are over 300 images, eyewitness drawings and photographs.

InterstellarNet: Origins

Collected interviews with the popular and influential author considered to be one of the founding fathers of modern science fiction.

The Eerie Silence

Discusses the possibility of different forms of life than ours within our solar system and in other solar

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systems too.

The Empire Novels

A fabulous adventure into the last frontier of man! Attention! This is the last message you will receive until your mission is completed. You have sixty minutes once miniaturization is complete. You must be out of Benes' body before then. If not, you will return to normal size and kill Benes regardless of the success of the surgery. Four men and one woman reduced to a microscopic fraction of their original size, boarding a miniaturized atomic sub and being injected into a dying man's carotid artery. Passing through the heart, entering the inner ear where even the slightest sound would destroy them, battling relentlessly into the cranium. Their objective . . . to reach a blood clot and destroy it with the piercing rays of a laser. At stake . . . the fate of the entire world.

Eternal Shadow

When the First Call from the Stars Comes, Do We Even Dare to Answer? Life changes for everyone in general--and for physicist Dean Matthews in particular--when astronomers detect a radio signal from a nearby star. First Contact forces humanity to face hard questions, and do it fast. Every answer spawns new questions. Every solution sets in motion a new and more daunting crisis to challenge Dean, his family--and an expanding number of interstellar civilizations--for generations to come. Praise for

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InterstellarNet: Origins "in InterstellarNet:

OriginsLerner proves he knows enough real-world, present-day computer science and economics to combine them into a wonderfully thought-provoking story. Lerner's world-building and extrapolating are top notch." --SFScope "Lerner mixes physics, computer science, and economics into a series of very intellectually satisfying puzzles. Some of the puzzles involve understanding the alien, and some depend on understanding ourselves A very satisfying read, especially for the intellectually inclined." --Mike Brotherton, author of Spider Star "One of the most original, believable, thoroughly thought-out, and utterly fascinating visions ever of what interstellar contact might really be like." --Dr. Stanley Schmidt, Editor, Analog Magazine "Edward Lerner takes us from a first SETI detection to full scale interstellar net economics, with thrills along the way. No one had thought through what a working interstellar net would be like. Lerner has the professional heft to make sense of it, tell a story, and make us care. Good stuff, told in clear, quick prose. A groundbreaking job!"

--Gregory Benford, author of Timescape. Bredon didn't mean to interfere with the Powers-but then they interfered with him! When the beings of myth and legend start fighting among themselves, mere mortals had best beware. Millennia ago, the survivors of a crash settled the planet of Denner's Wreck. Their descendents long ago forgot their own history. Centuries later, the planet was rediscovered by visitors who stayed-and came to be called The Powers. The descendants of the original settlers soon learned to treat the newcomers like gods. Then, one fine day, Bredon the Hunter found himself caught up

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in the affairs of the Powers-at just the moment one of them went mad! With a new afterword by the Author. Previously published as Denner's Wreck." FoxAcre Press is proud to present its books on the Google Play store.

The Robot Novels

Isaac Asimov's death on April 6, 1992, was a great loss to the world of literary science and freethought. The prolific author's vision is unmatched today, and his pointed honesty shines through in *The Roving Mind*, now reissued in this special tribute edition. This collection of essays is wide-ranging, reflecting Asimov's extraordinary skill in disseminating knowledge from across the spectrum of human thought. Some of the areas explored in this volume of 62 essays include creationism, pseudoscience, censorship, population, philosophy of science, transportation, computers and corporations of the future, and astronomy. His predictions about cloning which has only recently become the topic of public debate the theory of technophobia, and other scientific developments are astounding. In a lighter tone, Asimov includes several personal stories from his life including thoughts on his style of writing and memories of family in younger days. With tributes by Arthur C. Clarke, L. Sprague de Camp, Harlan Ellison, Kendrick Frazier, Martin Gardner, Donald Goldsmith, Stephen Jay Gould, E. C. Krupp, Frederik Pohl, and Carl Sagan The collection is very readable and thus is accessible to a wide audience of nonscientists as well as scientists. Both adults and young people should

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find it interesting. -The Physics Teacher. . . Asimov's best include pieces detailing the present mysteries of solar astronomy, removing the mythology of cloning (backyard gardeners do it all the time), and pointing out deficiencies in the supposed chemistry expertise of Sherlock Holmes. -Nature

Nemesis

The search for life in the universe, once the stuff of science fiction, is now a robust worldwide research program with a well-defined roadmap probing both scientific and societal issues. This volume examines the humanistic aspects of astrobiology, systematically discussing the approaches, critical issues, and implications of discovering life beyond Earth. What do the concepts of life and intelligence, culture and civilization, technology and communication mean in a cosmic context? What are the theological and philosophical implications if we find life - and if we do not? Steven J. Dick argues that given recent scientific findings, the discovery of life in some form beyond Earth is likely and so we need to study the possible impacts of such a discovery and formulate policies to deal with them. The remarkable and often surprising results are presented here in a form accessible to disciplines across the sciences, social sciences, and humanities.

Isaac Asimov's Guide to Earth and Space

In a 1950 conversation at Los Alamos, four world-class scientists generally agreed, given the size of the

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Universe, that advanced extraterrestrial civilizations must be present. But one of the four, Enrico Fermi, asked, "If these civilizations do exist, where is everybody?" Given the fact that there are perhaps 400 million stars in our Galaxy alone, and perhaps 400 million galaxies in the Universe, it stands to reason that somewhere out there, in the 14 billion-year-old cosmos, there is or once was a civilization at least as advanced as our own. Webb discusses in detail the 50 most cogent and intriguing solutions to Fermi's famous paradox.

Intelligent Life in Space

When a meteorite lands in Surrey, the locals don't know what to make of it. But as Martians emerge and begin killing bystanders, it quickly becomes clear—England is under attack. Armed soldiers converge on the scene to ward off the invaders, but meanwhile, more Martian cylinders land on Earth, bringing reinforcements. As war breaks out across England, the locals must fight for their lives, but life on Earth will never be the same. This is an unabridged version of one of the first fictional accounts of extraterrestrial invasion. H. G. Wells's military science fiction novel was first published in book form in 1898, and is considered a classic of English literature.

The Life Eaters

The first volume of the autobiography of a prominent scientist and prolific author, covering the first thirty-four years of his life.

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Gods from Outer Space

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