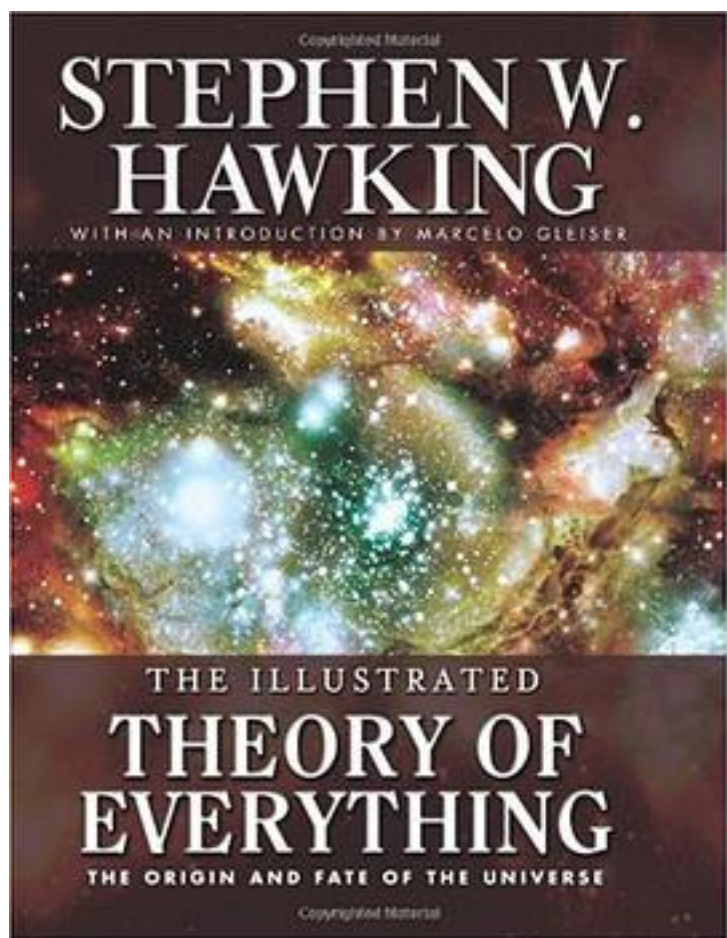


Illustrated Theory of Everything



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著者:Hawking, Stephen

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Stephen Hawking is widely believed to be one of the world's greatest minds, a brilliant theoretical physicist whose work helped reconfigure models of the universe and define what's in it. Imagine sitting in a room listening to Hawking discuss these achievements

and place them in historical context; it would be like hearing Christopher Columbus on the New World. Hawking presents a series of seven lectures--covering everything from big bang to black holes to string theory--that capture not only the brilliance of Hawking's mind but his characteristic wit as well. Of his research on black holes, which absorbed him for more than a decade, he says, "It might seem a bit like looking for a black cat in a coal cellar." Hawking begins with a history of ideas about the universe, from Aristotle's determination that the Earth is round to Hubble's discovery, more than 2,000 years later, that the universe is expanding. Using that as a launching pad, he explores the reaches of modern physics, including theories on the origin of the universe (e.g., the Big Bang), the nature of black holes, and space-time. Finally, he poses the questions left unanswered by modern physics, especially how to combine all the partial theories into a "unified theory of everything." "If we find the answer to that," he claims, "it would be the ultimate triumph of human reason." A great popularizer of science as well as a brilliant scientist, Hawking believes that advances in theoretical science should be "understandable in broad principle by everyone, not just a few scientists." In this book, he offers a fascinating voyage of discovery about the cosmos and our place in it. It is a book for anyone who has ever gazed at the night sky and wondered what was up there and how it came to be.

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