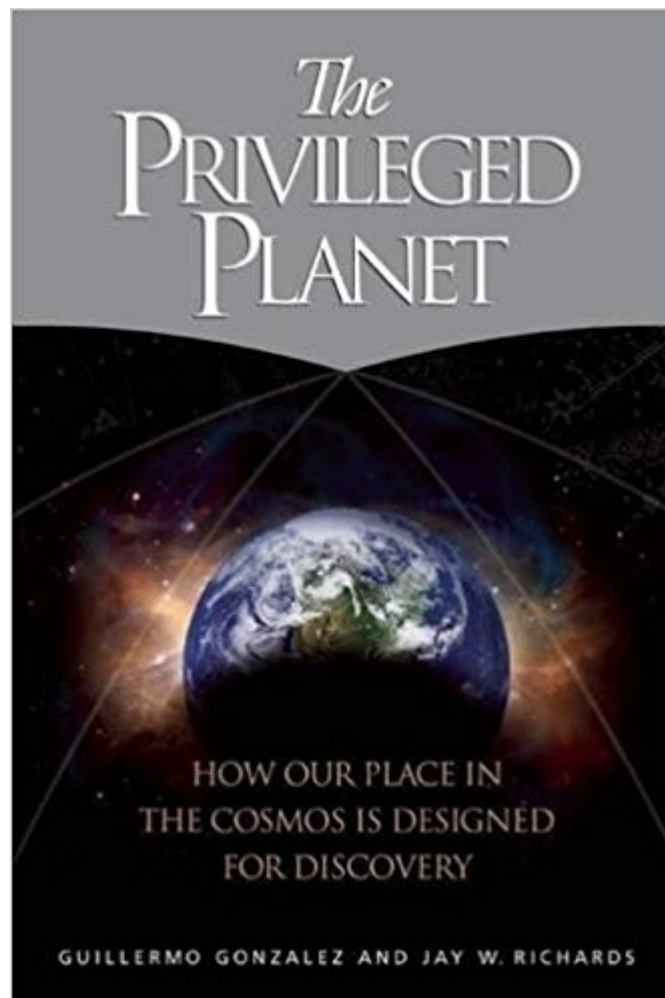




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The Privileged Planet: How Our Place In The Cosmos Is Designed For Discovery



Synopsis

Earth. The Final Frontier Contrary to popular belief, Earth is not an insignificant blip on the universe's radar. Our world proves anything but average in Guillermo Gonzalez and Jay W. Richards's *The Privileged Planet: How Our Place in the Cosmos Is Designed for Discovery*. But what exactly does Earth bring to the table? How does it prove its worth among numerous planets and constellations in the vastness of the Milky Way? In *The Privileged Planet*, you'll learn about the world's life-sustaining capabilities water and its miraculous makeup protection by the planetary giants And how our planet came into existence in the first place.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A movement known as "intelligent design" has emerged in recent years to counter evolution theories that hold that the design of the universe is random. Critics have dubbed this the "new creationism," since many in the movement correlates the intelligent designer with the Judeo-Christian God. Gonzalez and Richards now take the defense of intelligent design one step further. By assessing the elements that compose our planet, they argue, we can tell that it was designed for multicellular organic life. The presence of carbon, oxygen and water in the right proportions makes it possible for organic life to exist; and this combination of minerals and chemical elements exists only on Earth. Moreover, they argue, we can measure the ways that Earth became habitable. Thus, tree rings, stomata on leaves, skeletons in deep ocean sediments and pollen in lake sediments help us to measure how life on Earth developed by design. In addition, the authors

contend, the universe itself is designed for discovery ("Mankind is unusually well-positioned to decipher the cosmos. Were we merely lucky in this regard?" No, the authors respond), and because the Earth is habitable we can use it as a measure of the uninhabitability of other planets. "The myriad conditions that make a region habitable are the best overall places for discovering the universe in its smallest and largest expressions." Overall, the authors (Gonzalez is an assistant research professor of astronomy and physics at Iowa State, Richards has a doctorate from Princeton Theological Seminary) provide a reasoned case for intelligent design, but it's important to note that the vast majority of scientists reject the intelligent design argument, and this book is unlikely to persuade many to change their minds. B&w photos. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Is Earth merely an insignificant speck in a vast and meaningless universe? On the contrary. The Privileged Planet: How Our Place in the Cosmos Is Designed for Discovery shows that this cherished assumption of materialism is dead wrong. Earth is far more significant than virtually anyone has realized. Contrary to the scientific orthodoxy, it is not an average planet around an ordinary star in an unremarkable part of the Milky Way. In this provocative book, Guillermo Gonzalez and Jay W. Richards present a staggering array of evidence that exposes the hollowness of this modern dogma. They demonstrate that our planet is exquisitely fit not only to support life, but also to give us the best view of the universe, as if Earth were designed both for life and for scientific discovery. Readers are taken on a scientific odyssey from a history of tectonic plates, to the wonders of water and solar eclipses, to our location in the Milky Way, to the laws that govern the universe, and to the beginning of cosmic time. In The Privileged Planet, you will discover: Why the best scientific evidence refutes the misnamed Copernican Principle; the widely held idea that there is nothing special about Earth or its place in the universe; Why the sheer number and size of galaxies does not mean that Earth's capacity to sustain life is the result of blind chance; How Earth is precisely positioned in the Milky Way; not only for life, but also to allow us to find answers to the greatest mysteries of the universe; Striking ways in which water doesn't behave like most other liquids; and how each of its quirks makes it perfectly suited for the existence of creatures like us. The harmony of Earth and the Moon: how they work together to sustain Earthly life as one intricate system; and how that system produces the best solar eclipses where Earthly observers can see them. How Jupiter and Saturn protect Earth from cataclysmic destruction. How the laws and constants that govern the universe must be narrowly fine-tuned for the existence of any complex life. The Privileged Planet's astounding findings should lead any individual to reevaluate

entrenched assumptions about the universe; and even to reconsider our very purpose on what so many have dismissed as nothing more than an accident of cosmic evolution.

This book could be regarded as a precursor to Hugh Ross' latest release "Improbable Planet".

It's hard to imagine that God would do all of this just for us, but he did. What a fascinating read.

good

EXCELLENT

Excellent book! Very clear and logical. A must read!

Excellent. I have watched it over and over.

Very good, it shows clearly that life needs fine tuned circumstances, to find such a place in the universe is practically improbable, except the earth. It proofs in external intellectual concerned being: Maybe this compact summarization of Brett Kunkle from STR gives a glimpse of the essential message of this book: "Recent scientific discoveries show our universe is finely tuned. This simply means there are certain details in the universe that had to be "just right" in order to produce life. For example, the gravitational force must be constant. The expansion rate of the universe must be constant. A life-sustaining solar system can have only one star. And on and on and on. Scientists tell us there are more than 50 "just right" details in the universe that make life on planet earth possible. Not only does a finely tuned universe point to a Fine Tuner, but it also demonstrates care and concern for the flourishing of His creatures." The book is for the interested reader, it is a bit technical with a lot of detail. However interesting I did not finish it.

This book has to be one of the most underrated publications...ever. On the one hand, the book represents a substantial collection and culmination of astronomical findings and observations from the past century. Science geeks will enjoy it period! On the other hand and from a different angle, I really cannot think of a greater challenge to atheism than this volume - and I am familiar with quite a few of those that do so. It's just too bad the book is systematically dismissed as either (erroneously) as a regurgitation of the anthropic principle or a piece of creationist propaganda. Such critics

typically do not have the patience to wade through the absolute mass of data and scientific scholarship that this book presents. If only people would read books before criticizing them! Personally, I walked away from this book being completely blown away. Is it not bizarre that human inventions in technology come *exactly* when they're most desperately needed? Why is it that out of the billions of years of our earth and solar systems history, right now is the best time to view solar eclipses - and simultaneously right now is when we just so happen to technology to view and enjoy them most? The discussion about cosmic time and the size of human beings - being in the literal center of the cosmos, looking down into microscopic matter and looking up into the vast huge galactic universe, etc., leaves one with the impression that God spent billions of years putting the universe together *for this very moment* - the 10-100,000 years or so that human beings, conscious of the cosmos, are living. I would try and ignore the subtle, weird implications of the book were it not for the undeniable science behind it. It just sickens me how many people will not read this book under false auspices - and how many millions of people are constantly being told the same, outdated mantra that "the sun is just an ordinary star," and "the planet is just an ordinary planet" and "the solar system is just an ordinary solar system" and on and on and on when 100% if it is scientifically bogus. What is it with modern science's obsession with destroying any possible traces of extraordinary phenomena and human exceptionalism?

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