

have been done in the late 1960s, but that paper did not claim evidence for dark matter.^{*}) Equating fine-tuning with the Anthropic Principle (p. 183) is at best misleading. (To be fair, much confusion exists around those topics (*e.g.*, ref. 12 and references therein).) The claim that the early Universe was dense enough to be a black hole (p. 180) is at best misleading. On the other hand, she doesn't make the common mistake of claiming that Wheeler coined the term 'black hole' (p. 28). My guess is that, as in most popular-astronomy books, most of the mistakes concern cosmology, but I noticed some in other areas as well. Especially because of its historical importance in the discovery of asteroids (which *is* discussed), I missed a mention of the Titius–Bode rule for planetary distances; “every planet is about twice as far from the Sun as the planet before” is a much worse approximation (slightly more accurate only for the distances of Saturn and Uranus). I also wondered why “we don't have a deeper understanding of why” the conservation of angular momentum exists; surely Noether's theorem and the isotropy of space are sufficient.

A few other errors I put down to carelessness or bad editing. On the whole, though, the book is well-written and I have only about my average number of complaints concerning style and so on. I did find it rather distracting, though, that the text is in a sans-serif font with relatively large interline spacing (similarly to another book recently reviewed¹³ in this *Magazine*). There are only a handful each of black-and-white photos and footnotes; there are neither references/bibliography/further reading nor an index nor any acknowledgements, but a short biography of the author.

Despite my qualms (which refer to only a minority of the subjects discussed), in particular my standard complaints about cosmological misconceptions, this is an interesting book which provides a good overview of many interesting topics in astronomy. — PHILLIP HELBIG.

References

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- (4) P. Helbig, *The Observatory*, **138**, 339, 2018.
- (5) P. Helbig, *The Observatory*, **145**, 65, 2025.
- (6) P. Helbig, *The Observatory*, **145**, 77, 2025.
- (7) P. van Oirschot, J. Kwan & G. F. Lewis, *MNRAS*, **404**, 1633, 2010.
- (8) A. Avelino & R. P. Kirshner, *ApJ*, **828**, 35, 2016.
- (9) P. Helbig, *The Observatory*, **144**, 38, 2024.
- (10) P. Helbig, *The Observatory*, **140**, 225, 2020.
- (11) V. C. Rubin, W. K. Ford, Jr. & J. S. Rubin, *ApJ*, **159**, 379, 1970.
- (12) P. Helbig, *Found. Phys.*, **16**, 93, 2023.
- (13) P. Helbig, *The Observatory*, **146**, 99, 2026.

Here and There

MAKES THE BLOOD BOIL

And this being June, when the sun is closer by, as it makes its presence felt the mercury will rise quickly.
—*The Sunday Telegraph*, 2026 June 14, p. 32

^{*}In that paper, Rubin and Ford also mention earlier work by others; the claim that Vera Rubin discovered dark matter is certainly not due to her claiming that, as she acknowledged previous work.