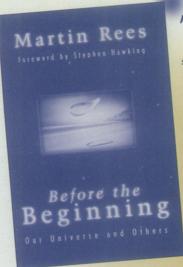
The Weekly Newsmagazine of Science January 3, 1998 Vol. 153, No. 1 Pages 1–16 New Year in Space



Addison-Wesley, 1997 291 pages, 61/4" x 91/4" hardcover, \$25.00

he experimental triumphs and theoretical insights of recent yearsfrom the detection of neutrinos from exploding stars to the search for extraterrestrial life-offer the most dramatic enlargement of our concept of the universe since astronomers first recognized the sun's true place

among the stars. In this illuminating work, Sir Martin Rees, Britain's Astronomer Royal, draws these advances together with up-to-the-minute

research on black holes,

dark matter, and nucleosynthesis of the elements. He also sheds light on some of the personalities behind the science, offering first-hand impressions of Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar, Stephen Hawking, John Archibald Wheeler, and Fred Hoyle, among others.

With stunning clarity, Rees argues that a family even an infinity—of universes may have been created, each acquiring by its own big bang a distinctive imprint and its own laws of physics. These baby universes will either live out their immense cosmic cycle

"This is an accessible yet accurate account of modern cosmology that clearly separates our store of sure knowledge about the Universe from its speculative edge. It nicely reflects Rees's wide-ranging interests and his powerful intuition about astronomical problems. If you haven't read a single cosmology book, this is a good place to start.

-John D. Barrow in New Scientist or die because those laws do not allow

them to achieve longevity.

Our "home universe," then, is just one island in a cosmic archipelago where impassable barriers prohibit communication. But, as Rees demonstrates, our universe is an exceptional member of this infinite ensemble, for it is still near the beginning of a fascinating evolutionary process that will end either in the heat-death of external expansion or in what scientists call a "big crunch." The multi-universe revolution in cosmological thought limned

by Rees casts a piercing light on man's place in the cosmos.

-from Addison-Wesley

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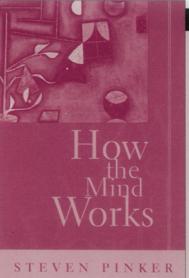
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n this extraordinary book, Steven Pinker, one of the world's leading cognitive scientists, does for the rest of the mind what he did for language in his 1994 bestseller The Language Instinct. He explains what the mind is, how it evolved, and how it allows us to see, think, feel, laugh, interact, enjoy the arts, and ponder the mysteries of life-with wit, clarity, and verve.

Pinker explains the mind by "reverseengineering" it-figuring out what natural selection designed it to accomplish in the environment in which we evolved. The mind, he writes, is a system of "organs of computation" that allowed our ancestors to understand and outsmart objects, animals, plants, and each other.

How the Mind Works explains many of the imponderables of everyday life. Why does a face look more attractive with makeup? How do "Magic-Eye" 3-D stereograms work? Why do men challenge each other to duels? Why are children bratty? Why do fools fall in love?

Pinker rehabilitates unfashionable ideas, such as the mind is a computer and human nature was shaped by natural selection. He also challenges fashionable ideas, such as passionate emotions are irrational, parents socialize their children, creativity springs from the unconscious, nature is good and modern soci-



ety corrupting, and art and religion are expressions of our higher spiritual yearnings.

How the Mind Works presents a big picture, but it is not a personal musing. It is a grand synthesis of the most satisfying explanations of our mental life that have been proposed in cognitive science and evolutionary biology, with insights from disciplines as disparate as neuroscience, economics, and social psychology. It is also fascinating, provocative, and thoroughly entertaining.

-from W.W. Norton

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W.W. Norton, 1997, 660 pages, 61/4" x 91/2", hardcover, \$29.95

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