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Today, physicists and mathematicians throughout the world are feverishly working on one of the most ambitious theories ever proposed: superstring theory. String theory, as it is often called, is the key to the unified field theory that eluded Einstein for more than 30 years. At last, science has overcome the nearly century-old rift between the laws of the large—general relativity—and the laws of the small—quantum mechanics. String theory deftly unites these two pillars of modern physics into a single, harmonious whole by declaring that all of the wondrous happenings in the universe arise from the vibrations of one single entity: a set of microscopically tiny loops of energy that lie deep within the heart of matter. And with the potential to unify all the forces of nature—to provide, so to speak, the master equation governing the grand sweep of physics from quarks to the cosmos—some have even hailed superstring theory as a “Theory of Everything.”

In this brilliantly articulated and refreshingly clear book, Brian Greene, a leading string theorist, relates the scientific story and the human struggle behind the search for the ultimate theory. Thrilling and revolutionary ideas such as new dimensions hidden within the fabric of space, black holes transmuting into elementary particles, rips and punctures in the space-time continuum, a gigantic universe interchangeable with minuscule ones, and a wealth of others are playing a pivotal role as physicists use string theory to grapple with some of the deepest questions of the ages.

Through the artful use of metaphor and analogy, Greene succeeds in making some of the most sophisticated concepts ever contemplated viscerally accessible and thoroughly entertaining, bringing us closer than ever to understanding how the universe works.
—from W.W. Norton

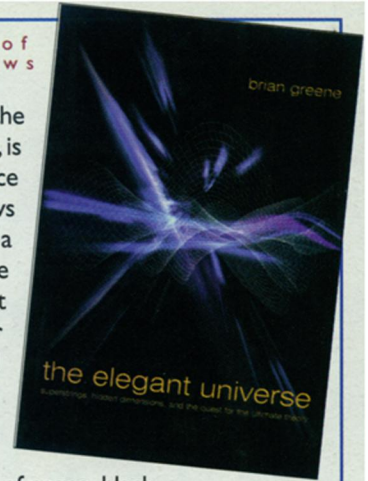
W.W. Norton, 1999, 448 pages, 6 1/4" x 9 1/2", hardcover, \$27.95

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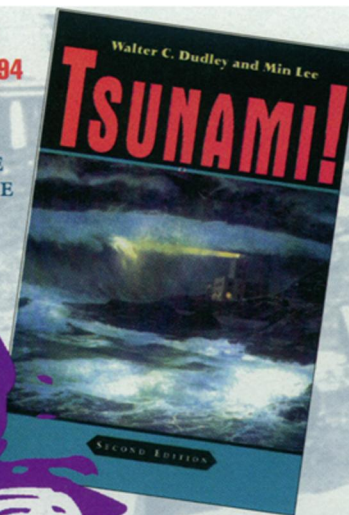
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On April 1, 1946, shortly after sunrise, the town of Hilo on the island of Hawaii was devastated by a series of giant tidal waves. Traveling 2,300 miles from the Aleutian Islands in less than 5 hours, the waves struck without warning and claimed 159 lives.

Fourteen years later, on May 22, 1960, a massive earthquake occurred off of the coast of Chile. The earthquake generated giant waves that sped across the Pacific at 442 miles per hour, reaching Hilo in just 15 hours. The first wave to hit the town was modest, four feet higher than normal, the second nine feet. Before the third wave could arrive, a tidal phenomenon known as a bore smashed into the Hilo bayfront, with 35-foot waves that wrenched buildings off their foundations. That day, several city blocks were swept clean of all structures and 61 people died.

The first edition of *Tsunami!*, published in 1988, provided readers with a complete examination of the tsunami phenomenon in Hawaii. This second edition adds many eyewitness accounts of the tsunamis of 1946 and 1960 and expands its coverage to include major tsunamis in the Mediterranean and off the coast of Japan, Chile, Indonesia, Fiji, Alaska, California, Newfoundland, and the Caribbean, as well as the 1998 devastation in Papua New Guinea. Dramatic photographs and first-hand accounts are placed within the framework of the how and why of tsunamis, our scientific understanding of these phenomena, and the current status of the Tsunami Warning System, which is widely used to forecast and measure tsunamis and prepare coastal areas for potentially deadly tsunami strikes.



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University of Hawaii Press

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