



Deep Space: The universe from the beginning

by **Stuart Clark**

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£25.00 (hbk).**

This handsomely produced large-format (28cm by 37cm) book will be especially pleasing to observers of the deep sky, since it does not follow the traditional path of examining the universe from the 'backyard' outwards: its view of the cosmos is temporal and evolutionary rather than spatially progressive, 'a journey into deep space and the science of cosmology', in the author's words. Rather than listing and describing everything that exists, from the Earth to the most distant and faintest galaxies, Dr Clark concentrates on the origins, evolution and large-scale structures of the universe, examining among other things gravity, expansion and the Big Bang, the cosmic web of galaxies and dark matter. Solar-system specialists need not avoid the book, however: the planets do make their appearance, in the chapter about the nature and origins of the stars themselves.

To describe *Deep Space* as lavishly illustrated would be an understatement. Every page bursts with colour: the most modern and striking images from our space telescopes jostle for attention with attractive explanatory diagrams and simulations. However, this is not a mere 'coffee-table' volume, despite its size and richness in images. The text can appeal to both astronomers and non-astronomers, at all levels of familiarity with the human exploration of the cosmos. Those wishing to savour the treasures bestowed upon us by today's state-of-the-art cameras, while simultaneously updating their knowledge and understanding of the universe, will not regret acquiring this reasonably-priced book.

Bob Mizon

Bob Mizon operates a travelling planetarium, and coordinates the BAA's Campaign for Dark Skies.

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