



The Cosmic Landscape: String Theory and the Illusion of Intelligent Design

By Leonard Susskind

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In his first book ever, the father of string theory reinvents the world's concept of the known universe and man's unique place within it. Line drawings.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. As modern physics has developed a better understanding of how the universe operates at its most fundamental levels, one thing has become increasingly clear: we're damned lucky to be here at all. The laws of physics are precariously balanced, and were the value of one constant slightly different, life as we know it wouldn't exist. To explain the ridiculous improbability of it all, some physicists have turned to the "Anthropic Principle": the universe seems perfectly tailored to us because if it weren't, we wouldn't be here to observe it. The underlying rationale for this argument involves the "landscape" of potential laws of physics (which, it turns out, aren't so immutable after all), a whole bunch of extra dimensions and lots of particle physics. Luckily, Susskind—the father of string theory—does the job right, guiding readers through the current controversy over the Anthropic Principle. Make no mistake: this is the cutting edge of physics as described by one of the sharpest scientific minds around. While the subtitle is a bit misleading (this isn't about intelligent design in the Kansas Board of Education sense, but actually a controversy at once bigger and less prominent), persistent readers will finish this book understanding and caring about contemporary physics in ways both unexpected and gratifying. (*Dec. 12*)

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From [Booklist](#)

Physicist Susskind is a founder of string theory, and his first popular work will be of utmost significance to science readers. They will be challenged throughout by Susskind's ideas, of which strings are but a part; his driving curiosity is to discover why the laws of physics are what they are and so finely poised to permit life. Susskind discusses how slight alterations of physical values would destroy atoms and, hence, life. Deeming unscientific any proposition of a supernatural agency in setting the physical dials so exactly, Susskind advances a radical concept he calls the "landscape." Valiantly explaining it to his lay audience, Susskind, after introducing the moving parts of his theory (general relativity, quantum mechanics, vacuum energy), compares our universe to a rolling ball on an undulating landscape. Its place of rest equates to our laws of physics. In this extraordinary work, Susskind ushers us to the mind-bending edge of a possible paradigm shift. *Gilbert Taylor*

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About the Author

Leonard Susskind has been the Felix Bloch Professor in theoretical physics at Stanford University since 1978. The author of *The Cosmic Landscape*, he is a member of the National Academy of Science and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and recipient of numerous prizes including the science writing prize of the American Institute of Physics for his *Scientific American* article on black holes.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jerold Richards:

The ability that you get from *The Cosmic Landscape: String Theory and the Illusion of Intelligent Design* will be the more deep you rooting the information that hide within the words the more you get enthusiastic about reading it. It doesn't mean that this book is hard to know but *The Cosmic Landscape: String Theory*

and the Illusion of Intelligent Design giving you buzz feeling of reading. The article writer conveys their point in selected way that can be understood by simply anyone who read the idea because the author of this publication is well-known enough. This kind of book also makes your personal vocabulary increase well. Making it easy to understand then can go to you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We advise you for having that The Cosmic Landscape: String Theory and the Illusion of Intelligent Design instantly.

Ronald Stauffer:

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Evelyn Wiley:

Playing with family inside a park, coming to see the ocean world or hanging out with pals is thing that usually you may have done when you have spare time, subsequently why you don't try matter that really opposite from that. Just one activity that make you not sensation tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you have been ride on and with addition info. Even you love The Cosmic Landscape: String Theory and the Illusion of Intelligent Design, you are able to enjoy both. It is very good combination right, you still desire to miss it? What kind of hangout type is it? Oh come on its mind hangout folks. What? Still don't get it, oh come on its known as reading friends.

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