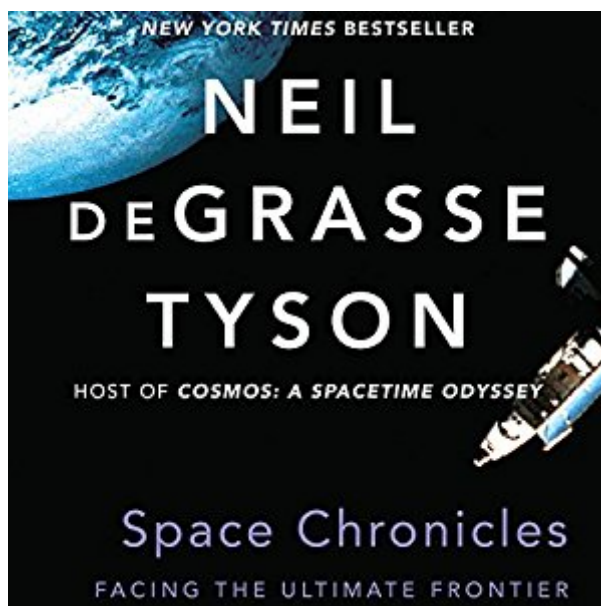


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Space Chronicles: Facing The Ultimate Frontier



Synopsis

America's space program is at a turning point. After decades of global primacy, NASA has ended the space-shuttle program, cutting off its access to space. No astronauts will be launched in an American craft, from American soil, until the 2020s, and NASA may soon find itself eclipsed by other countries' space programs. With his signature wit and thought-provoking insights, Neil deGrasse Tyson - one of our foremost thinkers on all things space - illuminates the past, present, and future of space exploration and brilliantly reminds us why NASA matters now as much as ever. As Tyson reveals, exploring the space frontier can profoundly enrich many aspects of our daily lives, from education systems and the economy to national security and morale. For America to maintain its status as a global leader and a technological innovator, he explains, we must regain our enthusiasm and curiosity about what lies beyond our world. Provocative, humorous, and wonderfully listenable, *Space Chronicles* represents the best of Tyson's recent commentary, including a must-listen prologue on NASA and partisan politics. Reflecting on topics that range from scientific literacy to space-travel missteps, Tyson gives us an urgent, clear-eyed, and ultimately inspiring vision for the future.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

...especially if you know what you are getting. This is a collection of interviews, essays, editorials and missives by Tyson, who I consider to be a phenomenal communicator. This is not a book but a collection of his positions on space, NASA, politics, and science, etc., These individual components

are loosely organized by theme, but there is a redundancy throughout the book, which is exactly what you would expect. This is NDT telling us why we should be excited about further exploration of space, and laying out the reasons in many different formats. It is (in this sense) repetitive because his message is consistent and often certain events are cited repeatedly throughout the book. However, his message, even repetitively stated, is compelling, inspiring, and beautifully delivered. NDT's passion is obvious and his true gift, making these complex topics accessible to lay public, is what makes this book a fun read. It will stimulate reflection, conversation and debate. And this is GOOD!! The book gets a 5, but the audiobook loses some stardust and gets a 4. A warning, and the ONLY reason this gets four instead of five stars. If (like me) you bought the kindle version and listened to some of it via audiobook, take heed. The narrator of the Audible product is (unfortunately) not Tyson, but someone who is a little robotic and who has a tendency to mispronounce just enough of the words to approach "Oh...come on" status. Examples: Anton Von Leowenhoek's name, Jai Alai, tertiary, Xenon (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VX1xRtDXIvE>), and Saturn "Vee" (as opposed to Saturn V, as in five) all drove me crazy when repeatedly pronounced incorrectly. Knowing Dr. Tyson's respect for language, I suspect he too would cringe at these pronunciations.

I bought this book solely on a conversation I heard on a talk show from Neil Degraase Tyson. The man was fascinating. As I read the book I wasn't disappointed. I love books that link together time, places and events that you may or may not have realized were going on in the background. Another such book if you're interested is the Dream Machine that outlines the history of the PC industry in a similar way to the Video Triumph of the Nerds only in more detail. It's not a Kindle Ebook but worth the read. Check it out at the following

link. http://www..com/Dream-Machine-Licklider-Revolution-Computing/dp/B00008MNVW/ref=sr_1_2?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1366227147&sr=1-2&keywords=The+Dream+machine My two problems with this book as there was no obvious flow to the chapters. In My Humble Opinion it appears that they just simply took a bunch of writings and interviews and slapped them together in a sort of Greatest Hits of Neil Tyson. Also if you're anticipating more be forewarned that the entire last 40% of the book was the laws and articles that created NASA as a space agency. Lots of legal jargon and he references it a bit in the book so a handy reference but I bought the book to read what Neil had to say. Every one of the chapters is filled with fascinating facts and observations. Neil has a unique way of boiling the entire Universe into something you can get your head around which is no small feat for my tiny brain pan. But every chapter had something in it that was repeated multiple times

throughout the book. If I had two star ratings I would have given it 5 stars for content and only 2 for structure and flow. Trust me on this. I'm an Engineer and no English Teacher so if it was distracting to someone like me then a true book snob would tear it apart. In fact I admired the random out of the box nature of his observations a great deal. It just made it harder to read for someone without A.D.D.

Tyson has always been a good speaker. This book combines original writing for this book with interviews and presentations he has done over the last 10-15 years. I always enjoyed his presentations and interviews. There is a lot on youtube, but it's hard to sort and collate it. You can consider this book a collation of his most popular public interviews and presentations. Having most of it in one book is convenient so I thought it was worth the price rather than spend weeks trawling the internet for the same content. I found the book inspiring and educational about the merits of science and how it can make humanity a better place. There are many dimensions to Tyson's point of view that I can't cover in a review. But what I can say is that he looks at the impact of society, government and religion on science and how science needs to be the cornerstone of education in order for us to get off this rock and explore the universe. Each chapter is digestible and entertaining reading for everyone. It's far from dry. So if you enjoy Tyson's interviews and presentations then you won't be disappointed with this book.

I bought this after seeing NDT on the Daily Show. I didn't realize it was mostly a collection of his previous writings collected into a book. It was a great read, but I had expected more of a new writing. Thus not the 5 stars. Probably my fault for not paying attention prior to buying it. If you read this on the kindle app, on a laptop, with the two page view open, it gets confusing when you try and click on the bibliography link. It shows two entries. One on the left page, one on the right. It's not clear which one is relative to the link you clicked on. Minor deal. It did what I needed it to do: Held my attention from beginning to end. I'm notorious for losing interest in a book quickly. The short essay collection style writing was really nice even though not all of it was brand new fresh. Yes. You should read this. Even if you don't know the basics of physics or math. Yes, you. It is a great way to educate your self regardless of your level. NDT does a great job speaking to everyone in the room despite the fact he's an Astrophysicist. He's an educator first, super genius second.

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