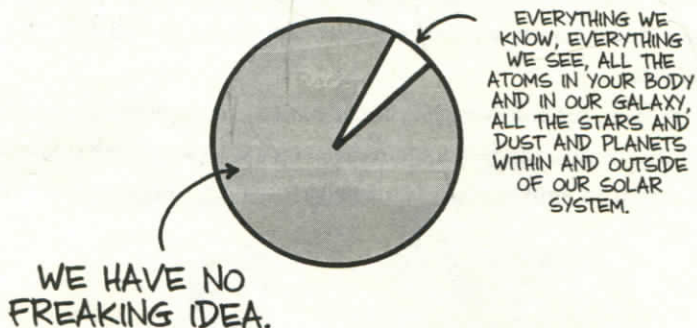


Introduction

THE UNIVERSE AS WE KNOW IT:



Would you like to know how the universe began, what it's made of, and how it will end? To understand where time and space come from? To know whether we are alone in the universe?

Too bad! This book will not give you any of those answers.

Instead, this book is about all the things we *don't* know about the universe: all the big questions that you might think we have already answered but actually haven't.

We often hear on the news about some big discovery that answers a deep question about our universe. But how many people had heard of the question before they learned the answer? And how many big questions are still left unanswered? That's what this book is for, to introduce you to the open questions.

In the pages ahead, we'll explain what the biggest unanswered questions in the universe are and why they are still mysteries. By the end, you'll

have a deeper grasp of just how absurd it is to think that we have any clue what's going on or how the universe really works. On the upside, at least you'll have a clue as to why we don't have a clue.

The point of the book is not to make you feel depressed about what we don't know but to fill you with a sense of excitement about the incredible amount of uncharted territory left to explore. For each unsolved cosmic mystery, we will also reveal what the answers could mean for humans and what mind-blowing surprises could be hiding in each unknown. We will teach you to look at the world in a different way—by understanding what we don't know, we can see that the future is still full of amazing possibilities.

So strap in, get comfortable, and get ready to explore the depths of our ignorance, because the first step in discovery is to know what is unknown. We are about to embark on a journey through the biggest mysteries in the universe.

ARE YOU READY?



Daniel Whiteson

Jorge Cham