

# The Planets Dava Sobel

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**The Planets** - Dava Sobel 2006-01

**Letters to Father** - Maria Galilei 2009-05-26  
When she was 13, Virginia Galilei, eldest daughter of the great scientist Galileo, was placed by her father in a convent near him in Florence and took the name Suor Maria Celeste. Unable to see him except on his occasional visits, she wrote him continually, as her 124

surviving letters (which Galileo kept) attest. Now, for the first time, all of these letters are reproduced in English, translated by Dava Sobel, and in their original Italian, and Ms. Sobel has also written an introduction and annotations placing the letters in historical context. The 124 letters span only a decade of Maria Celeste's 33 years. In that dramatic period, a pope came to power who battled the Protestant Reformation;

the Thirty Years' War embroiled all of Europe; the bubonic plague erupted across Italy; and a new philosophy of science, promulgated most forcefully by Galileo himself, threatened to overturn the order of the universe. Maria Celeste's evocative, beautifully written letters touch on all of these situations, but they dwell in the small details of everyday life; and though Galileo's letters to her have not survived, it is clear from hers that he answered every one. Especially for those who have read Ms. Sobel's *Galileo's Daughter*, but even for those who haven't, Maria Celeste's letters provide an indelible chronicle of convent life in the early 17th century, a memorable portrait of deep affection between a famous father and his daughter, and fascinating insight into Galileo himself.

*Planets* - Dava Sobel 2003

*Longitude* - Dava Sobel 1998

Sobel presents the dramatic human story of an

epic scientific quest and of John Harrison's 40-year obsession with building the perfect timekeeper, known today as the chronometer.

*Galileo's Daughter* - Dava Sobel 2000

This is an account of the relationship between Italian scientist Galileo and his daughter, Marie Celeste. It contains letters sent from Marie Celeste to her father from a Florence convent.

*Mapmaking with Children* - David Sobel 1998

In this book, David Sobel explains how mapmaking has relevance across the curriculum.

*Uncentering the Earth* - William T. Vollmann 2006-01

An analysis of the scientific and social impact of the Polish astronomer's pivotal sixteenth-century work traces how his challenge to beliefs about an earth-centric solar system had a profound influence on the ways in which humanity understands itself and the universe. 20,000 first printing.

*The Glass Universe* - Dava Sobel 2017-10-31

From #1 New York Times bestselling author

Dava Sobel, the "inspiring" (People), little-known true story of women's landmark contributions to astronomy A New York Times Book Review Notable Book Named one of the best books of the year by NPR, The Economist, Smithsonian, Nature, and NPR's Science Friday Nominated for the PEN/E.O. Wilson Literary Science Writing Award "A joy to read." —The Wall Street Journal In the mid-nineteenth century, the Harvard College Observatory began employing women as calculators, or "human computers," to interpret the observations their male counterparts made via telescope each night. At the outset this group included the wives, sisters, and daughters of the resident astronomers, but soon the female corps included graduates of the new women's colleges—Vassar, Wellesley, and Smith. As photography transformed the practice of astronomy, the ladies turned from computation to studying the stars captured nightly on glass photographic plates. The "glass universe" of half a million plates that Harvard

amassed over the ensuing decades—through the generous support of Mrs. Anna Palmer Draper, the widow of a pioneer in stellar photography—enabled the women to make extraordinary discoveries that attracted worldwide acclaim. They helped discern what stars were made of, divided the stars into meaningful categories for further research, and found a way to measure distances across space by starlight. Their ranks included Williamina Fleming, a Scottish woman originally hired as a maid who went on to identify ten novae and more than three hundred variable stars; Annie Jump Cannon, who designed a stellar classification system that was adopted by astronomers the world over and is still in use; and Dr. Cecilia Helena Payne, who in 1956 became the first ever woman professor of astronomy at Harvard—and Harvard's first female department chair. Elegantly written and enriched by excerpts from letters, diaries, and memoirs, *The Glass Universe* is the hidden

history of the women whose contributions to the burgeoning field of astronomy forever changed our understanding of the stars and our place in the universe.

A More Perfect Heaven - Dava Sobel 2011-09-05

During the 1530s, rumours of a potentially revolutionary theory of how the heavens worked emanating from a small city in Poland began to spread throughout Europe. The architect of this theory was a Polish cleric named Nicolaus Copernicus. In around 1514 Copernicus had written and hand-copied an initial outline of his heliocentric theory, in which he placed the Sun, not the Earth, at the centre of our universe, with the planets, including the Earth, revolving about it. Titled his *Commentariolus*, it circulated among a very few astronomers. Over the next two decades Copernicus expanded his theory through hundreds of sightings, leading to a secretive manuscript whose existence tantalised mathematicians and scientists all over the world. In 1539 a young German mathematician, Georg

Joachim Rheticus, travelled to Frombork to meet Copernicus; months later he departed with the manuscript for the book that would change the way we understand our place in the universe.

Rheticus arranged for the publication of *De Revolutionibus Orbium Coelestium* (On the Revolutions of the Celestial Spheres) - legend has it Copernicus received a copy on his deathbed. This book would forever change the way we thought about our place in the universe. In her compelling style, Dava Sobel chronicles the history of the Copernican Revolution, relating the story of astronomy from Aristotle to the Middle Ages. And as she achieved with her international bestsellers *Longitude* and *Galileo's Daughter*, in *A More Perfect Heaven*, Sobel expands the bounds of popular science writing, giving us an unforgettable portrait of a major step forward in the human knowledge of our universe.

The Planets - Dava Sobel 2005

Explores the creation and evolution of the solar

system's planets through a lens of popular culture, drawing on sources from astrology, science fiction, fine arts, and other genres to chronicle planetary history.

Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers - Mary Roach 2004-04-27

A look inside the world of forensics examines the use of human cadavers in a wide range of endeavors, including research into new surgical procedures, space exploration, and a Tennessee human decay research facility.

*A More Perfect Heaven* - Dava Sobel 2012-10-01  
The bestselling author of *Longitude* and *Galileo's Daughter* tells the story of Nicolaus Copernicus and the revolution in astronomy that changed the world.

**Cosmos** - Giles Sparrow 2017-10-05  
The biggest and best ever reproduction of the Space Age's most remarkable images The magnificent vault of stars emblazoning Earth's night skies are but an infinitesimal fraction of the hundreds of billions that inhabit our galaxy -

and there are at least as many galaxies in the universe as there are stars in the Milky Way. *Cosmos* makes sense of this dizzying celestial panorama by exploring it one step at a time, illustrating the planets, moons, stars, nebulae, white dwarfs, black holes and other exotica that populate the heavens with some of science's most spectacular photographs. The book opens with an orbital survey of planet Earth, before venturing into the solar system heading for interstellar space and the heart of our galaxy. As the journey unfolds, the rhythms of stellar life emerge: we pass through dark clouds of dust and gas ablaze with newly smelted stars and we witness dying stars bloom and fade as planetary nebulae, or tear themselves apart as supernovae. Having crossed the Milky Way, we enter intergalactic space. Out here we watch the hidden lives of galaxies: we see them flock and cluster, forming massive conglomerations that span millions of light years, visibly warping space with their tremendous gravity. After

covering an almost unimaginable 13.4 billion light years, we approach the edge of space and the dawn of time where our voyage must end, but not before we consider how the universe was born, and how it might die. A landmark in popular science publishing, *Cosmos* is a majestic, giant format, account of the ultimate journey - a 13.7-billion-light-year- (or 130-billion-trillion kilometre- ) voyage from our home planet to the edge of the universe and the beginning of time. Illustrated with 450 images of staggering beauty.

*Lives of the Planets* - Richard Corfield

2007-08-01

*Lives of the Planets* describes a scientific field in the midst of a revolution. Planetary science has mainly been a descriptive science, but it is becoming increasingly experimental. The space probes that went up between the 1960s and 1990s were primarily generalists-they collected massive amounts of information so that scientists could learn what questions to pursue.

But recent missions have become more focused: Scientists know better what information they want and how to collect it. Even now probes are on their way to Mercury, Venus, Mars, and Pluto, with Europa-one of Jupiter's moons-on the agenda. In a sweeping look into the manifold objects inhabiting the depths of space, *Lives of the Planets* delves into the mythology and the knowledge humanity has built over the ages. Placing our current understanding in historical context, Richard Corfield explores the seismic shifts in planetary astronomy and probes why we must change our perspective of our place in the universe. In our era of extraordinary discovery, this is the first comprehensive survey of this new understanding and the history of how we got here.

*The Science of Liberty* - Timothy Ferris

2011-02-08

In his most powerful book to date, award-winning author Timothy Ferris makes a passionate case for science as the inspiration

behind the rise of liberalism and democracy. Ferris shows how science was integral to the American Revolution but misinterpreted in the French Revolution; reflects on the history of liberalism, stressing its widely underestimated and mutually beneficial relationship with science; and surveys the forces that have opposed science and liberalism—from communism and fascism to postmodernism and Islamic fundamentalism. A sweeping intellectual history, *The Science of Liberty* is a stunningly original work that transcends the antiquated concepts of left and right.

*Galileo's Daughter* - Dava Sobel 2011-09-04

Presents a biography of the scientist through the surviving letters of his illegitimate daughter Maria Celeste, who wrote him from the Florence convent where she lived from the age of thirteen.

*The Planets* - Giles Sparrow 2009-01-01

Within the last 40 years, the contents of our solar system have been slowly revealed by a

fleet of satellites and interplanetary probes, from Cassini to the Hubble Space Telescope to the recent Mars Exploration Rovers. Moving out from the Sun, every planet and moon is visited in this comprehensive survey that follows the tracks of robotic rovers over Mars, plunges through Titan's atmosphere on the back of the Huygens probe, inspects a comet, and discovers the frozen planets that lurk beyond the orbit of Neptune, a full light year from Earth. The breathtaking images of dozens of celestial bodies are accompanied by fascinating captions and informative diagrams, completing this stunning compilation.

*The Man Who Found Time* - Jack Repcheck 2010-02

There are four men whose life's work helped free science from the straitjacket of religion. Three of the four - Nicolaus Copernicus, Galileo Galilei, and Charles Darwin - are widely heralded for their breakthroughs. The fourth, James Hutton, is comparatively unknown. A Scottish gentleman

farmer, Hutton's observations on his small tract of land led him to a theory that directly contradicted biblical claims that the Earth was only 6,000 years old. Telling the story not only of Hutton, but of the rich intellectual milieu of the Scottish Enlightenment, which brought together some of the greatest thinkers of the age - from David Hume and Adam Smith to James Watt and Erasmus Darwin - *The Man Who Found Time* is an enlightening, engaging narrative about a little-known man and the science he established. *What Stars Are Made Of* - Donovan Moore 2020 Cecilia Payne-Gaposchkin was the revolutionary scientific thinker who discovered what stars are made of. But her name is hard to find alongside those of Hubble, Herschel, and other great astronomers. Donovan Moore tells the story of Payne's life of determination against all the obstacles a patriarchal society erected against her.

*The Planets* - Dava Sobel 2006-10-31  
Dava Sobel's *The Glass Universe* will be

available from Viking in December 2016 With her bestsellers *Longitude* and *Galileo's Daughter*, Dava Sobel introduced readers to her rare gift for weaving complex scientific concepts into a compelling narrative. Now Sobel brings her full talents to bear on what is perhaps her most ambitious topic to date-the planets of our solar system. Sobel explores the origins and oddities of the planets through the lens of popular culture, from astrology, mythology, and science fiction to art, music, poetry, biography, and history. Written in her characteristically graceful prose, *The Planets* is a stunningly original celebration of our solar system and offers a distinctive view of our place in the universe. \* A New York Times extended bestseller \* A Featured Alternate of the Book-of-the-Month Club, History Book Club, Scientific American Book Club, and Natural Science Book Club \* Includes 11 full-color illustrations by artist Lynette R. Cook "[The Planets] lets us fall in love with the heavens all over again." -The

New York Times Book Review "Playful . . . lyrical . . . a guided tour so imaginative that we forget we're being educated as we're being entertained." -Newsweek " [Sobel] has outdone her extraordinary talent for keeping readers enthralled. . . . Longitude and Galileo's Daughter were exciting enough, but The Planets has a charm of its own . . . . A splendid and enticing book." -San Francisco Chronicle "A sublime journey. [Sobel's] writing . . . is as bright as the sun and its thinking as star-studded as the cosmos." -The Atlanta Journal-Constitution "An incantatory serenade to the Solar System. Grade A-" -Entertainment Weekly "Like Sobel's [Longitude and Galileo's Daughter] . . . [The Planets] combines masterful storytelling with clear, engaging explanations of the essential scientific facts." -Physics World  
Pluto's Secret - Margaret Weitekamp 2013-03-12  
People, children especially, have been baffled, bewildered, and even outraged by the fact that Pluto is no longer called a planet. Through

whimsical artwork and an entertaining dialogue format, Pluto's Secret explains the true story of this distant world. Providing a history of the small, icy world from its discovery and naming to its recent reclassification, this book presents a fascinating look at how scientists organize and classify our solar system as they gain new insights into how it works and what types of things exist within it. The book includes a glossary and bibliography. Praise for Pluto's Secret "Pairing a lighthearted narrative in a hand-lettered-style typeface with informally drawn cartoon illustrations, this lively tale of astronomical revelations begins with the search for Planet X." —Kirkus Reviews "This picture book offers a fresh, positive perspective on Pluto, showing that its change of status is not a demotion but a correction." —Booklist "Lighthearted imagining of a gregarious Pluto." —Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books "Fun reading... The book provides a factual history of our faraway 'dwarf,' and on its

companion icy worlds, and on the discovery of Kuiper-like bands around other stars." —School Library Journal Award New York Public Library's annual Children's Books list: 100 Titles for Reading and Sharing 2013

*Galileo's Daughter* - Dava Sobel 2009-05-26

Inspired by a long fascination with Galileo, and by the remarkable surviving letters of Galileo's daughter, a cloistered nun, Dava Sobel has written a biography unlike any other of the man Albert Einstein called "the father of modern physics- indeed of modern science altogether." *Galileo's Daughter* also presents a stunning portrait of a person hitherto lost to history, described by her father as "a woman of exquisite mind, singular goodness, and most tenderly attached to me." *Galileo's Daughter* dramatically recolors the personality and accomplishment of a mythic figure whose seventeenth-century clash with Catholic doctrine continues to define the schism between science and religion. Moving between Galileo's grand public life and Maria

Celeste's sequestered world, Sobel illuminates the Florence of the Medicis and the papal court in Rome during the pivotal era when humanity's perception of its place in the cosmos was about to be overturned. In that same time, while the bubonic plague wreaked its terrible devastation and the Thirty Years' War tipped fortunes across Europe, one man sought to reconcile the Heaven he revered as a good Catholic with the heavens he revealed through his telescope. With all the human drama and scientific adventure that distinguished Dava Sobel's previous book *Longitude*, *Galileo's Daughter* is an unforgettable story

**The Planets** - Dava Sobel 2006

After The Huge National And International Success Of 'Longitude' And 'Galileo'S Daughter', Dava Sobel Tells The Human Story Of The Nine Planets Of Our Solar System. This Groundbreaking New Work Traces The 'Lives' Of Each Member Of Our Solar Family, From Myth And History, Astrology And Science Fiction, To

The Latest Data From The Modern Era'S Robotic Space Probes. Whether Revealing What Hides Behind Venus'S Cocoon Of Acid Clouds, Describing Neptune'S Complex Beauty, Or Capturing First-Hand The Excitement At The Jet Propulsion Laboratory When The First Pictures From Cassini At Saturn Were Recently Beamed To Earth, Dava Sobel'S Unique Tour Of The Solar System Is Filled With Fascination And Beauty. In Lyrical Prose Interspersed With Poems By Tennyson, Blake And Others, 'The Planets' Gives A Breathtaking, Intimate View Of Those Heavenly Bodies That Have Captured The Imagination Since Humanity'S First Glimpse Of The Glittering Night Skies. Timely And Timeless, 'The Planets' Will Engage And Delight As It Unravels The Mysteries Of The Cosmos. It Is Of Infinite Relevance To This Age In Which New Planets Are Being Discovered Elsewhere In Our Galaxy. Ödrön Is A Spiritual Teacher For Anyone Whether They Have A Spiritual Path Or Not. Her Heartfelt Advice And Wisdom (Developed In Her

20 Years Of Practice As A Tibetan Buddhist Nun As Well As Her Years Previously As A Normal Housewife And Mother ) Give Her A Wide Appeal. Particularly In These Difficult Times, This Advice Strikes Just The Right Note, Offering Us Comfort And Challenging Us To Live Deeply And Contribute To Creating A More Loving World.

*The Measure of All Things* - Ken Alder  
2014-07-29

In June 1792, amidst the chaos of the French Revolution, two intrepid astronomers set out in opposite directions on an extraordinary journey. Starting in Paris, Jean-Baptiste-Joseph Delambre would make his way north to Dunkirk, while Pierre-François-André Méchain voyaged south to Barcelona. Their mission was to measure the world, and their findings would help define the meter as one ten-millionth of the distance between the pole and the equator—a standard that would be used “for all people, for all time.” The Measure of All Things is the astonishing tale

of one of history's greatest scientific adventures. Yet behind the public triumph of the metric system lies a secret error, one that is perpetuated in every subsequent definition of the meter. As acclaimed historian and novelist Ken Alder discovered through his research, there were only two people on the planet who knew the full extent of this error: Delambre and Méchain themselves. By turns a science history, detective tale, and human drama, *The Measure of All Things* describes a quest that succeeded as it failed—and continues to enlighten and inspire to this day.

**The Book Nobody Read** - Owen Gingerich  
2009-05-26

After three decades of investigation, and after traveling hundreds of thousands of miles across the globe—from Melbourne to Moscow, Boston to Beijing—Gingerich has written an utterly original book built on his experience and the remarkable insights gleaned from examining some 600 copies of *De revolutionibus*. He found the books

owned and annotated by Galileo, Kepler and many other lesser-known astronomers whom he brings back to life, which illuminate the long, reluctant process of accepting the Sun-centered cosmos and highlight the historic tensions between science and the Catholic Church. He traced the ownership of individual copies through the hands of saints, heretics, scalawags, and bibliomaniacs. He was called as the expert witness in the theft of one copy, witnessed the dramatic auction of another, and proves conclusively that *De revolutionibus* was as inspirational as it was revolutionary. Part biography of a book, part scientific exploration, part bibliographic detective story, *The Book Nobody Read* recolors the history of cosmology and offers new appreciation of the enduring power of an extraordinary book and its ideas. [Welcome to the Universe](#) - Neil deGrasse Tyson  
2016-09-12

The New York Times bestselling tour of the cosmos from three of today's leading

astrophysicists Welcome to the Universe is a personal guided tour of the cosmos by three of today's leading astrophysicists. Inspired by the enormously popular introductory astronomy course that Neil deGrasse Tyson, Michael A. Strauss, and J. Richard Gott taught together at Princeton, this book covers it all—from planets, stars, and galaxies to black holes, wormholes, and time travel. Describing the latest discoveries in astrophysics, the informative and entertaining narrative propels you from our home solar system to the outermost frontiers of space. How do stars live and die? Why did Pluto lose its planetary status? What are the prospects of intelligent life elsewhere in the universe? How did the universe begin? Why is it expanding and why is its expansion accelerating? Is our universe alone or part of an infinite multiverse? Answering these and many other questions, the authors open your eyes to the wonders of the cosmos, sharing their knowledge of how the universe works. Breathtaking in scope and

stunningly illustrated throughout, Welcome to the Universe is for those who hunger for insights into our evolving universe that only world-class astrophysicists can provide.

*A Sense of the Mysterious* - Alan Lightman

2006-01-03

From the bestselling author of *Einstein's Dreams* comes this lyrical and insightful collection of science writing that delves into the mysteries of the scientific process--physics, astronomy, mathematics--and exposes its beauty and intrigue. In these brilliant essays, Lightman explores the emotional life of science, the power of imagination, the creative moment, and the alternate ways in which scientists and humanists think about the world. Along the way, he provides in-depth portraits of some of the great geniuses of our time, including Albert Einstein, Richard Feynman, Edward Teller, and astronomer Vera Rubin. Thoughtful, beautifully written, and wonderfully original, *A Sense of the Mysterious* confirms Alan Lightman's unique

position at the crossroads of science and art.

**Time Restored** - Jonathan Betts 2011-05-19

This is the story of Rupert T. Gould (1890-1948), the polymath and horologist. A remarkable man, Lt Cmdr Gould made important contributions in an extraordinary range of subject areas throughout his relatively short and dramatically troubled life. From antique clocks to scientific mysteries, from typewriters to the first systematic study of the Loch Ness Monster, Gould studied and published on them all. With the title *The Stargazer*, Gould was an early broadcaster on the BBC's *Children's Hour* when, with his encyclopaedic knowledge, he became known as *The Man Who Knew Everything*. Not surprisingly, he was also part of that elite group on BBC radio who formed *The Brains Trust*, giving on-the-spot answers to all manner of wide ranging and difficult questions. With his wide learning and photographic memory, Gould awed a national audience, becoming one of the era's radio celebrities. During the 1920s Gould

restored the complex and highly significant marine timekeepers constructed by John Harrison (1693-1776), and wrote the unsurpassed classic, *The Marine Chronometer, its History and Development*. Today he is virtually unknown, his horological contributions scarcely mentioned in Dava Sobel's bestseller *Longitude*. The TV version of *Longitude*, in which Jeremy Irons played Rupert Gould, did at least introduce Gould's name to a wider public. Gould suffered terrible bouts of depression, resulting in a number of nervous breakdowns. These, coupled with his obsessive and pedantic nature, led to a scandalously-reported separation from his wife and cost him his family, his home, his job, and his closest friends. In this first-ever biography of Rupert Gould, Jonathan Betts, the Royal Observatory Greenwich's Senior Horologist, has given us a compelling account of a talented but flawed individual. Using hitherto unknown personal journals, the family's extensive collection of photographs, and the

polymath's surviving records and notes, Betts tells the story of how Gould's early life, his naval career, and his celebrity status came together as this talented Englishman restored part of Britain's - and the world's - most important technical heritage: John Harrison's marine timekeepers.

*The Best American Science Writing 2004* - Dava Sobel 2004-09-14

Jennifer Kahn's "Stripped for Parts" was selected as the lead story of this year's Best American Science Writing because, as Dava Sobel, best-selling author of *Longitude* and *Galileo's Daughter*, reveals, "it begins with one of the most arresting openings I have ever read." In "Columbia's Last Flight," William Langewiesche recounts the February 1, 2003, space shuttle tragedy, along with the investigation into the nationwide complacency that brought the ship down. K. C. Cole's "Fun with Physics" is a profile of astrophysicist Janet Conrad that blends her personal life with professional activity. In

"Desperate Measures," the doctor and writer Atul Gawande profiles the surgeon Francis Daniels Moore, whose experiments in the 1940s and '50s pushed medicine harder and farther than almost anyone had contemplated. Also included is a poem by the legendary John Updike, "Mars as Bright as Venus." The collection ends with Diane Ackerman's "ebullient" essay "We Are All a Part of Nature." Together these twenty-three articles on a wide range of today's most current topics in science -- from biology, physics, biotechnology, and astronomy, to anthropology, genetics, evolutionary theory, and cognition, represent the full spectrum of scientific writing from America's most prominent science authors, proving once again that "good science writing is evidently plentiful" (*Scientific American*).

**Backache** - Dava Sobel 1996-06-15

Argues that exercise is the best therapy for backache, discusses motivation, recommends specific exercises, and covers yoga, meditation,

and life-style changes

*And the Sun Stood Still* - Dava Sobel 2016-03-01

Using her deep knowledge, her skills as a storyteller, and her imagination, Dava Sobel illuminates one of history's most significant and far-reaching meetings. In the spring of 1539, a young German mathematician--Georg Joachim Rheticus--journeyed hundreds of miles to northern Poland to meet the legendary, elderly cleric and reluctant astronomer Nicolaus Copernicus. Some two decades earlier, Copernicus had floated the mind-boggling theory that the Sun, not the Earth, was stationary at the center of the universe, and he was rumored to have crafted a book that could prove it. Though exactly what happened between them can never be known, Rheticus shepherded Copernicus's great work into production and *De revolutionibus orbium coelestium* ultimately changed the course of human understanding. Dava Sobel imagines their dramatic encounter, and with wit and erudition gives them

personality. Through clever and dramatic dialogue, she brings alive the months Rheticus and Copernicus spent together--the one a heretical Lutheran, the other a free-thinking Catholic--and in the process illuminates the historic tension between science and religion. An introduction by Dava Sobel will set the stage, putting the scenes in historical context, and an afterword will describe what happened after Copernicus's book was published detailing the impact it had on science and on civilization.

Longitude - Dava Sobel 2010-07-05

The dramatic human story of an epic scientific quest and of one man's forty-year obsession to find a solution to the thorniest scientific dilemma of the day--"the longitude problem." Anyone alive in the eighteenth century would have known that "the longitude problem" was the thorniest scientific dilemma of the day--and had been for centuries. Lacking the ability to measure their longitude, sailors throughout the great ages of exploration had been literally lost at sea as soon

as they lost sight of land. Thousands of lives and the increasing fortunes of nations hung on a resolution. One man, John Harrison, in complete opposition to the scientific community, dared to imagine a mechanical solution—a clock that would keep precise time at sea, something no clock had ever been able to do on land.

Longitude is the dramatic human story of an epic scientific quest and of Harrison's forty-year obsession with building his perfect timekeeper, known today as the chronometer. Full of heroism and chicanery, it is also a fascinating brief history of astronomy, navigation, and clockmaking, and opens a new window on our world.

**Wonders of the Solar System** - Professor Brian Cox 2010-09-30

Recommended for viewing on a colour tablet. In Wonders of the Solar System – the book of the acclaimed BBC TV series – Professor Brian Cox will take us on a journey of discovery where alien worlds from your imagination become

places we can see, feel and visit.

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Club \* Includes 11 full-color illustrations by artist Lynette R. Cook "[The Planets] lets us fall in love with the heavens all over again." -The New York Times Book Review "Playful . . . lyrical . . . a guided tour so imaginative that we forget we're being educated as we're being entertained." -Newsweek " [Sobel] has outdone her extraordinary talent for keeping readers enthralled. . . . Longitude and Galileo's Daughter were exciting enough, but The Planets has a charm of its own . . . . A splendid and enticing book." -San Francisco Chronicle "A sublime journey. [Sobel's] writing . . . is as bright as the sun and its thinking as star-studded as the cosmos." -The Atlanta Journal-Constitution "An incantatory serenade to the Solar System. Grade A-" -Entertainment Weekly "Like Sobel's [Longitude and Galileo's Daughter] . . . [The Planets] combines masterful storytelling with clear, engaging explanations of the essential scientific facts." -Physics World

**The Illustrated Longitude** - Dava Sobel

2008-10-08

Describes the forty-year effort of John Harrison to invent the chronometer, the first instrument able to keep accurate time for navigational purposes.

**The Sun's Heartbeat** - Bob Berman 2011-07-13

The beating heart of the sun is the very pulse of life on earth. And from the ancients who plotted its path at Stonehenge to the modern scientists who unraveled the nuclear fusion reaction that turns mass into energy, humankind has sought to solve its mysteries. In this lively biography of the sun, Bob Berman ranges from its stellar birth to its spectacular future death with a focus on the wondrous and enthralling, and on the heartbreaking sacrifice, laughable errors, egotistical battles, and brilliant inspirations of the people who have tried to understand its power. What, exactly, are the ghostly streaks of light astronauts see-but can't photograph-when they're in space? And why is it impossible for two people to see the exact same rainbow? Why

are scientists beginning to think that the sun is safer than sunscreen? And how does the fluctuation of sunspots-and its heartbeat-affect everything from satellite communications to wheat production across the globe? Peppered with mind-blowing facts and memorable anecdotes about spectral curiosities-the recently-discovered "second sun" that lurks beneath the solar surface, the eerie majesty of a total solar eclipse-THE SUN'S HEARTBEAT offers a robust and entertaining narrative of how the Sun has shaped humanity and our understanding of the universe around us.

**The Glass Universe** - Dava Sobel 2017-10-23  
The Economist #1 New York Times bestselling author Dava Sobel returns with a captivating, little-known true story of women in science.

The Planets - Dava Sobel 2011-04-28  
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**Cosmos** - Giles Sparrow 2010

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2016-03-01

Using her deep knowledge, her skills as a storyteller, and her imagination, Dava Sobel illuminates one of history's most significant and far-reaching meetings. In the spring of 1539, a young German mathematician--Georg Joachim Rheticus--journeyed hundreds of miles to northern Poland to meet the legendary, elderly cleric and reluctant astronomer Nicolaus Copernicus. Some two decades earlier, Copernicus had floated the mind-boggling theory that the Sun, not the Earth, was stationary at the center of the universe, and he was rumored to have crafted a book that could prove it. Though exactly what happened between them can never be known, Rheticus shepherded Copernicus's great work into production and *De revolutionibus orbium coelestium* ultimately changed the course of human understanding.

Dava Sobel imagines their dramatic encounter, and with wit and erudition gives them personality. Through clever and dramatic dialogue, she brings alive the months Rheticus and Copernicus spent together--the one a heretical Lutheran, the other a free-thinking Catholic--and in the process illuminates the

historic tension between science and religion. An introduction by Dava Sobel will set the stage, putting the scenes in historical context, and an afterword will describe what happened after Copernicus's book was published detailing the impact it had on science and on civilization.