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The Copernicus Complex: Our Cosmic Significance in a Universe of Planets and Pro

By Scharf, Caleb.

FSG. 1 Cloth(s), 2014. hard. Book Condition: New. (Named a Best Science Book of 2014 by London's Sunday Times and NBC News, and a finalist for Physics World's Book of the Year) In the 16th century, Nicolaus Copernicus realized that Earth rotates around the Sun, demoting our planet from its central place in the cosmos and setting in motion a revolution in scientific thought. But recent evidence hints that we do in fact live in a special place, at a special time, due to a chain of unlikely events. How could we be significant if the Sun is just one of a billion trillion stars, in one of maybe a multitude of parallel realities? Here the author of Gravity's Engines looks at everything from tiny microbes within the Earth to distant exoplanets, probability theory, and possible universes, arguing that we may be made of common stuff, but our world and our time seem startlingly fine-tuned for life."The Copernicus Complex delivers its argument with comparable clarity, insight and humor. There is much to enjoy along the way, including a compelling account of the extraordinary diversity of planetary systems we now know to exist."Telegraph (London)"Scharf covers a lot of ground, and his...

Reviews

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