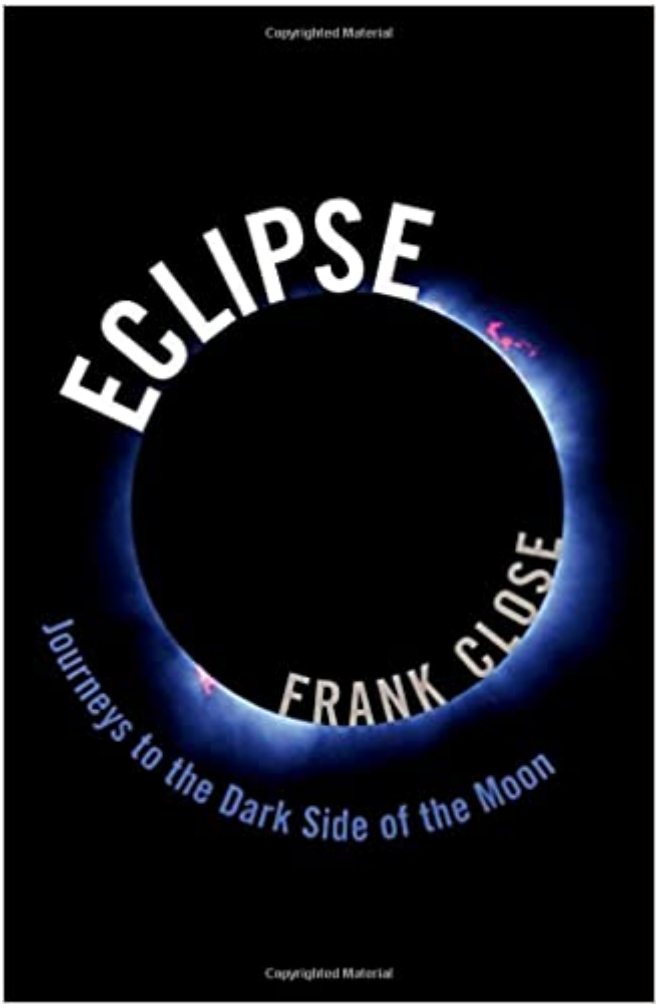
Eclipse: Journeys To The Dark Side Of The Moon



Synopsis

On August 21st, over one hundred million people will gather across the USA to witness the most-watched total solar eclipse in history. Eclipse: Journeys to the Dark Side of the Moon, by popular science author Frank Close, describes the spellbinding allure of this beautiful natural phenomenon. The book explains why eclipses happen, reveals their role in history, literature and myth, and introduces us to eclipse chasers, who travel with ecstatic fervor to some of the most inaccessible places on the globe. The book also includes the author's quest to solve a 3000-year-old mystery: how did the moon move backward during a total solar eclipse, as claimed in the Book of Joshua? Eclipse is also the story of how a teacher inspired the author, aged eight, to pursue a career in science and a love affair with eclipses that has taken him to a war zone in the Western Sahara, the South Pacific, and the African bush. The tale comes full circle with another eight-year old boy - the author's grandson - at the 2017 great American eclipse. Readers of all ages will be drawn to this inspirational chronicle of the mesmerizing experience of total solar eclipse.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Close's book, combining the rigour of a scientist with the excitement of a layman, is [a] perfect primer." -- The Daily Telegraph

Frank Close is an eminent research theoretical physicist in nuclear and particle physics. Currently Professor of Physics at Oxford University and a Fellow of Exeter College, he was formerly the Head

of the Theoretical Physics Division at the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory. He served as Chair of the UK Space Exploration Working Group 2007 which culminated with Tim Peake's launch to the ISS. He is the author of several books, including the best-selling Lucifer's Legacy (OUP, 2000), and was the winner of the Kelvin Medal of the Institute of Physics for his "outstanding contributions to the public understanding of physics." His other books include The Cosmic Onion (1983), The Particle Explosion (1987), End (1988), Too Hot to Handle (1991), and The Particle Odyssey (OUP, 2002). In 2013 Professor Close was awarded the Royal Society Michael Faraday Prize for communicating science.

If you are interested in the upcoming total solar eclipse, you have 3 days to buy this book and read it. I found the author's personal reflections on eclipse watching a bit tedious, but he tells you everything that you would want to know about this fascinating miracle of nature.

Enjoyed reading and will pass the book on to an astronomy interested son.

I have never read such a well written and thorough examination of solar and lunar eclipses. Invaluable background for the next total solar eclipse, August 21, 2017.

As a slice-of-life story, it's OK, but I bought it to be a leisurely intro to the astronomy of eclipses, and it hasn't done a very good job of that.For example, page 46 talks about how "233 synodic months and 242 nodes agree", but 233 * 29.53 = 6880.49 and 242 * 27.21 = 6584.82, which aren't even close. The '233' should pretty-obviously be '223'. Yes, this could be a typo, but ...The immediately-following discussion indicates that eventually the coincidence ends, but doesn't really explain what's behind the cycle which causes it to end. The discussion talks about 'eight hours', but doesn't really discuss where the 'eight hours' comes from.Similarly, the discussion of 'saros' is lacking in definition, leaving unexplained the difference between 'saros ' and 'saros '.A book of this type would benefit from a number of Appendices which explain the subject matter in more detail for technical readers.Possibly the book was rushed into print without technical editing, hoping to take advantage of the forthcoming solar eclipse?

A personal memoir of his fascination with eclipses by an Oxford Professor Emeritus of Physics.I was initially much taken with his recounting of a grade school teacher who awakened his interest in science during a partial solar eclipse, since I, too, have such a teacher in my past to whom I have

personally expressed my gratitude for the difference made in my life.One can learn quite a few things from the easy-to understand eclipse facts and drawings scattered through his personal narrative.My strongest impression of the book, however, is the amount of time given to mocking two awkward individuals he met on an eclipse trip to Tahiti, one of whom has an impaired sense of reality and apparently believed he would be picked up by aliens during the eclipse (pp 159-172). While such people can be difficult, to actually spend pages mocking men less fortunate than himself in ironic detail is distasteful, a waste of my time, and would only amuse the cruel. Is it possible that he considered what impact his writing would have if it fell under the eyes of the eclipse enthusiasts he is mocking, who would undoubtedly recognize themselves? Either he did not consider it, or he does not care. I expected better from a man with Dr. Close's advantages.All of the individuals I met on my first eclipse trip were very generous and kind, even though some were a bit unusual. If I met anyone this smug and self-satisfied, I was unaware of it.I found Tyler Nordgren's "Sun, Moon, Earth" a better read with more facts and history.

I ordered several books to prepare for this summers eclipse, and this was among the best. Frank does a wonderful job of engaging the reader, and has a knack for explaining scientific concepts in a colloquial style. It was an enjoyable read, and certainly whetted my appetite for experiencing my first solar eclipse.

Dark Side of the Moon: Wernher von Braun, the Third Reich, and the Space Race Dark Side of the Moon Working on the Dark Side of the Moon: Life Inside the National Security Agency Llewellyn's 2018 Moon Sign Book: Plan Your Life by the Cycles of the Moon (Llewellyn's Moon Sign Books) Moon Above, Moon Below (Moon Brothers WWII Adventure Series Book 1) Moon Charleston & Savannah (Moon Charleston & Moon Savannah)