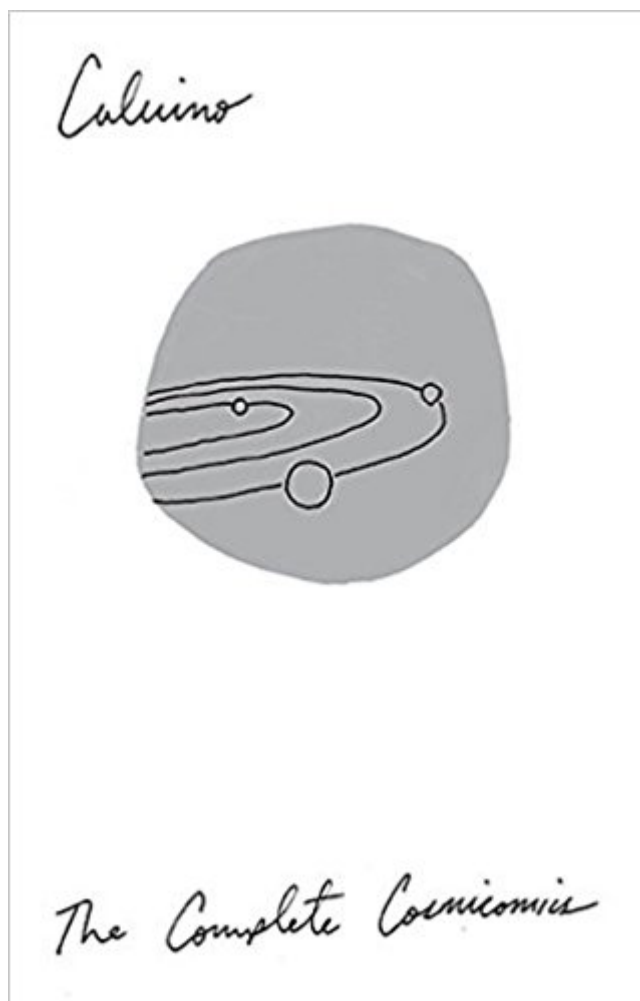


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The Complete Cosmicomics



Synopsis

“We were peering into this darkness, criss-crossed with voices, when the change took place: the only real, great change I’ve ever happened to witness, and compared to it the rest is nothing.” — from *The Complete Cosmicomics* Italo Calvino’s beloved cosmicomics cross planets and traverse galaxies, speed up time or slow it down to the particles of an instant. Through the eyes of an ageless guide named Qfwfq, Calvino explores natural phenomena and tells the story of the origins of the universe. Poignant, fantastical, and wise, these thirty-four dazzling stories collected here in one definitive anthology relate complex scientific and mathematical concepts to our everyday world. They are an indelible (and unfailingly delightful) literary achievement. “Nimble and often hilarious . . . Trying to describe such a diverse and entertaining mix, I have to admit, just as Calvino does so often, that my words fail here, too. There’s no way I or anyone, really can muster enough of them to quite capture the magic of these stories . . . Read this book, please.” — Colin Dwyer, NPR

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"In story after story, Calvino displays the same singular talent for wresting the profound from the absurd...One of the joys of the collection is the chance to watch his evolution as a writer from the purebred fantasy of his early years to the brain-wrinkling experiments of his later, more famous novels...A diverse and entertaining mix...Read this book, please." --NPR.org "A major event in the English language to give even more evidence why the great Italian post-modern master was among

the greatest of writers in his sadly truncated lifetime...marvelous, poetic, hilarious, sublime and wholly original tales which could please the brightest and most advanced students of literary post-modernism as well as the brightest and most advanced of pubescent readers...Over the course of years from the time of their invention, the tales first occasioned by 'Cosmicomics' became among the greatest achievements of a writer who couldn't possibly have been more deserving of our era's most fabled literary award." --Buffalo News"Calvino's stories offer us beauty and hilarity while imparting concepts from the hard sciences...This exuberant and humorous collection will appeal to a cross section of readers, including lovers of speculative fiction, fantasy, and literary fiction." --Library Journal

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It's a joy to have all the cosmicomics within one cover . . . Their topics are exhilaratingly immense, the uttermost reaches of space and time, into which warmth and humor enter through all kinds of gaps, quirks, and tricks. Calvino's light, dry, clear prose dances over the light years . . . A landmark in fiction, the work of a master. Ursula K. Le Guin, Guardian

In Italo Calvino's cosmicomics, primordial beings cavort on the nearby surface of the moon, play marbles with atoms, and bear ecstatic witness to Earth's first dawn. These dazzling stories cross planets and traverse galaxies, speed up time or slow it down to the particles of an instant. Through the eyes of an ageless guide named Qfwfq, Calvino explores natural phenomena and tells the story of the origins of the universe. Poignant, fantastical, and wise, these beloved tales relate complex scientific and mathematical concepts to our everyday world. Written between the 1960s and the 1980s, the cosmicomics were pivotal in the development of Calvino's experimental style. The Complete Cosmicomics brings together in one volume all thirty-four of these deft, enchanting stories for the first time in English including seven never before published in this country. This definitive collection reconfirms the cosmicomics as an enduring literary achievement. "

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good

Original, fascinating views of our cosmic home.

Calvino takes the universe and makes it personal. Very clever. You get to meet an electron. You hear stories from before the earth was created. Great fun!

OK

Italo Calvino is one of the best!

I first heard of Italo Calvino from a RadioLab podcast where Leiv Shreiber reads "Distance to the Moon". After listening to that particular podcast about a bazillion times I decided to buy this book. Every story had me smiling or shaking my head in awe of how clever and good it was. This is definitely one of my favorite books.

One of my favorite works of literature. Enjoyable on multiple levels, these stories can be read independently. But, they also build on and relate to one another as you read. Calvino's wonderful sense of humor shines through. Highly recommended.

I'm reading this book because a friend recommended it. And I'm glad she did, I've loved it, it is an easy way to get involve into scientific facts through short stories.If you like science fiction like Arthur C. Clark, or Isaac Asimov, then for sure you'll enjoy this book.

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