Starlight Detectives: How Astronomers, Inventors, and Eccentrics Discovered the Modern Universe



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STARLIGHT DETECTIVES: HOW ASTRONOMERS, INVENTORS, AND ECCENTRICS DISCOVERED THE MODERN UNIVERSE



Bellevue Literary Press. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 400 pages. Dimensions: 8.9in. x 6.0in. x 1.1in.Discover magazine Top 5 Summer ReadScientific American Recommended feature reviewA masterful balance of science, history and rich narrative. Discover magazineHirshfeld tells this climactic discovery of the expanding universe with great verve and sweep, as befits a story whose scope, characters and import leave most fiction far behind. Wall Street JournalStarlight Detectives is just the sort of richly veined book I love to readfull of scientific history and discoveries, peopled by real heroes and rogues, and told with absolute authority. Alan Hirshfelds wide, deep knowledge of astronomy arises not only from the most careful scholarship, but also from the years hes spent at the telescope, posing his own questions to the stars. DAVA SOBEL, author of A More Perfect Heaven: How Copernicus Revolutionized the Cosmos and LongitudeIn 1929, Edwin Hubble announced the greatest discovery in the history of astronomy since Galileo first turned a telescope to the heavens. The galaxies, previously believed to float serenely in the void, are in fact hurtling apart at an incredible speed: the universe is expanding. This stunning discovery was the culmination of a decadeslong arc of scientific and technical advancement. In its shadow lies an untold, yet equally fascinating, backstory whose cast of characters illuminates the gritty, hard-won nature of scientific progress. The path to a broader mode of cosmic observation was blazed by a cadre of nineteenth-century amateur astronomers and inventors, galvanized by the advent of photography, spectral analysis, and innovative technology to create the entirely new field of astrophysics. From William Bond, who turned his home into a functional observatory, to John and Henry Draper, a father and son team who were trailblazers of astrophotography and spectroscopy, to geniuses of invention such as Lon Foucault, and George Hale,...

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