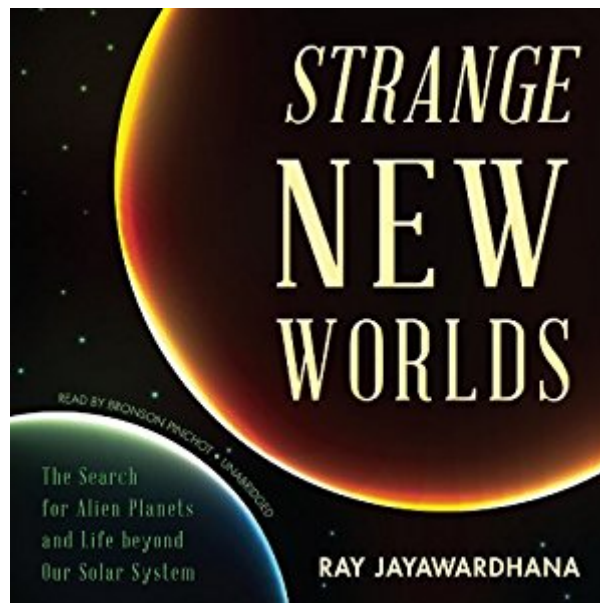




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Strange New Worlds: The Search For Alien Planets And Life Beyond Our Solar System



Synopsis

In *Strange New Worlds*, renowned astronomer Ray Jayawardhana brings news from the front lines of the epic quest to find planets - and alien life - beyond our solar system. Only in the past two decades, after millennia of speculation, have astronomers begun to discover planets around other stars - thousands in fact. Now they are closer than ever to unraveling distant twins of the Earth. In this book, Jayawardhana vividly recounts the stories of the scientists and the remarkable breakthroughs that have ushered in this extraordinary age of exploration. He describes the latest findings, including his own, that are challenging our view of the cosmos and casting new light on the origins and evolution of planets and planetary systems. He reveals how technology is rapidly advancing to support direct observations of Jupiter-like gas giants and super-Earths - rocky planets with several times the mass of our own planet - and how astronomers use biomarkers to seek possible life on other worlds. *Strange New Worlds* provides an insider's look at the cutting-edge science of today's planet hunters, our prospects for discovering alien life, and the debates and controversies at the forefront of extrasolar-planet research.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A very readable history of the search for planets around stars other than our own. The reader will learn a lot of astronomy in a very engaging text. It will also give you an insiders look at the rough and tumble world of financing science in the 21st century. There are lots of stories also about false starts, which is the way all science is done. Even claims that are refuted later push science forward

and there are plenty of examples here. A great review of the very ingenious ways of getting at the quest for planets. I would recommend this book as a text in an introductory course on planetary geology or as an interesting read for those that are science savvy.

A little dated, but with respect to how fast this area of Astrophysics is moving, a good overview

This book is one of the better science books I have read in a long time it is concise, interesting and very easy to read and comprehend. I will definitely read other books by this author.

Very interesting, hope the search goes on, shows a lot of advancement in science, I have an app for extra solar planets.

Strange New Worlds - Ray Jayawardhana [2014-03-07 512] The search for an earth-like planet orbiting a star in the goldilocks zone is the ultimate goal of many astronomers. This quest has also captured the imagination of many laymen. The author does a commendable job of setting the parameters of just what an earth-like planet is and spelling out the less than obvious fact that a body too close to a star or too far would not support life as we know it - think Mercury and Jupiter - hence the term goldilocks zone. This book details the historical investigations, and missteps, of detecting planets and more importantly just how these incredibly distant objects are identified and observed. Author Ray Jayawardhana is not only an excellent science writer but is also a "world leader in the study of planetary origins and diversity" to quote his bio on the back cover of this commendable book. The usefulness of this book is enhanced by the inclusion of a glossary of scientific terms, a bibliography, an index and many helpful drawings and illustrations. Highly recommended for curious students of all ages.

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