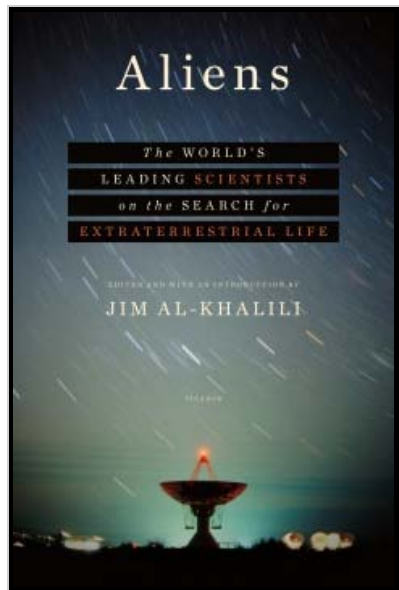


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Aliens

The World's Leading Scientists on the Search for Extraterrestrial Life

by Jim Al-Khalili

Price: \$25.00(Hardcover)

Published: May 09, 2017

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From the Publisher: In these lively and fascinating essays, scientists from around the world weigh in on the latest advances in the search for intelligent life in the universe and discuss just what that might look like. Since 2000, science has seen a surge in data and interest on several fronts related to E.T. (extraterrestrials); A.I. (artificial intelligence); and SETI (search for extraterrestrial intelligence). The debate has intensified over whether life exists outside our solar system, what that life would look like, and whether we'll ever make contact. Included here are essays from a broad spectrum of the scientific community: cosmologists, astrophysicists, NASA planetary scientists, and geneticists, to name just a few, discussing the latest research and theories relating to alien life. Some of the topics include: If life exists somewhere in space, what are the odds that it evolves...

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About The Author

Jim Al-Khalili

JIM AL-KHALILI OBE is an Iraqi-born British theoretical physicist, author and broadcaster. He is currently Professor of Theoretical Physics and Chair in the Public Engagement in Science at the University of Surrey. His most recent book, *Life on the Edge: The Coming of Age of Quantum Biology...*

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What We Say

This wide-ranging collection of essays by top scientists has multiple personalities, but I enjoyed them all. Some pieces are amusingly silly, like a run-down of how aliens are depicted in movies (with especial disdain for Ridley Scott's film "Prometheus") and a drolly straightforward recitation of the basics about some of the most famous claims of close encounters. Others are vaguely speculative about science but most are rooted in the latest facts and offer intelligent summaries of what we know, why it's silly (or smart) to listen for radio signals, why studying the consciousness of the octopus is good practice for encountering alien life and so on. Best of all are the sharply differing opinions -- you'll read one

piece that makes clear how very likely it is that life as we know it exists on other planets only to later read another equally convincing essay that asserts it's highly unlikely we'll discover life on other planets. That's science for you - no certainty other than the knowledge that facts are fascinating and we'll follow them wherever they lead. I'm not sure who the audience might be for this, but as a sci-fi reading buff who enjoys hearing the latest discoveries and layman's descriptions of cutting edge theories, I was right at home. -- Michael Giltz

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