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Asteroid Hunters



Synopsis

For the first time, scientists could have the knowledge to prevent a natural disaster epic in scale - an asteroid hitting the Earth - and in this exciting, adventuresome book, Carrie Nugent explains how. What are asteroids, and where do they come from? And, most urgently, are they going to hit the Earth? What would happen if one was on its way? Carrie Nugent is an asteroid hunter - part of a group of scientists working to map our cosmic neighborhood. For the first time ever, we are reaching the point where we may be able to prevent the horrible natural disaster that would result from an asteroid collision. In *Asteroid Hunters*, Nugent reveals what known impact asteroids have had: the extinction of the dinosaurs, the earth-sized hole Shoemaker Levy 9 left in Jupiter just a few decades ago, how the meteorite that burst over Chelyabinsk in Russia could have started a war, and unlucky Ms. Anne Hodges - the only person (that we know of) in US history to be the victim of a direct hit. Nugent also introduces the telescope she uses to detect near-Earth asteroids. Ultimately, detection is the key to preventing asteroid impact, and these specialized scientists are working to prevent the unthinkable from happening. If successful, asteroid hunting will lead to the first natural disaster humans have the know-how and the technology to prevent. The successful hunt and mapping of asteroids could mean nothing less than saving life on Earth.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Wow! This book is so much fun! All the facts and science are just part of the journey in this book, as Dr. Nugent walks us through the history of asteroids, up through current asteroid hunting efforts.

love the part about the squabbling of the discoverers of the first observed asteroid, and how asteroids came to be called "vermin of the sky". Dr. Nugent lets the modern scientists tell much of their stories in their own words, forging a friendly personal connection with each of them. It's like meeting a series of interesting people at a party with a good friend giving you the inside scoop in between encounters. There's an easy-going narrative flow throughout the book, making it delightful and a real pleasure to read. It's a real gem.

Short, but a bona fide page-turner. Other than an occasional thought about Comet Swift-Tuttle or, more likely, a mischievous Oort cloud comet getting nudged off its orbit, I'm not overly concerned anymore about our planet getting clobbered by a space object, especially an asteroid, after reading this book. This doesn't consider, of course, the possibility of other means of annihilation, such as a gamma ray burst that would extinguish all life on -- oh, never mind. Asteroid hunter Nugent also mentions Spacepod, her website comprised of interviews she conducts of astronomers, scientists, astrophysicists, etc. It's also terrific. Very addictive. So, a most excellent hardcover book and the motherlode of space-talk interviews all for around 10 bucks. Now, if that's not the best deal in the entire universe, it's at least the greatest bargain in our star system.

I want to recommend Dr. Nugent's book particularly for science educators, mathematics educators, science teachers, and math teachers (late elementary and up). It's a fascinating read with funny stories (and lovely artwork) that would engage students, whether they were originally interested in science or not! (But I'm going to bet they'll be interested by the time they finish the book.)

Asteroids are fascinating in and of themselves. This book goes beyond facts and delves into the real life stories of the people and institutions actively scanning the night skies. Dr. Nugent's writing style is educated yet conversational, so it is accessible to a wide audience. She covers the history of the first people to discover asteroids, and moves through the mathematical and technological advances to the present. I highly recommend this book, especially to students who are curious about the possibilities of math and science as it relates to studying the cosmos.

A small, quick read. Informative, with minimal math used. Dr. Nugent uses analogies (ex. as high as the Eiffel Tower) that the layman can grasp. This book can inspire folks to a STEM career.

A 5 star book. An interesting subject presented in an approachable and understandable manner.

The case for why the asteroid hunt is important, the history of the hunt, the current status and techniques of the hunt, and what's next were all laid out in an easy to follow but detailed format. This was a fun read. It was easy to feel the author's personality and her passion for the subject.

A well presented and even entertaining look at asteroid hunting and a realistic assessment of the potential threat they pose and realistic options for countermeasures.

Brilliant and highly entertaining!

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