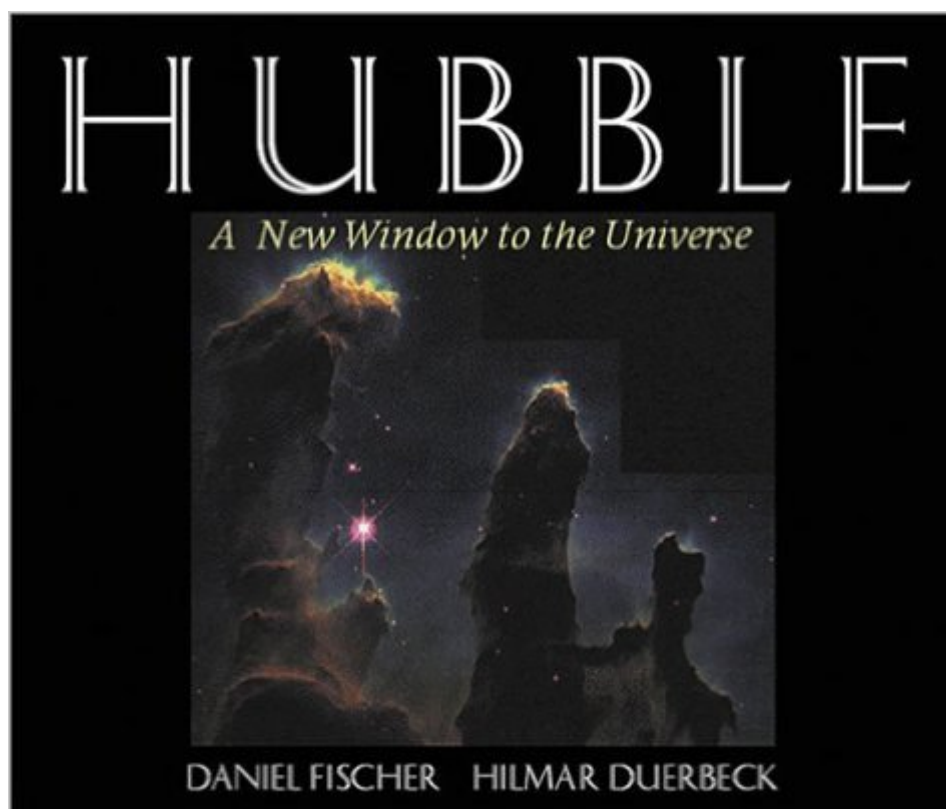


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Hubble: A New Window To The Universe



Synopsis

At last, a book presenting the fantastic achievements of the first five years of the Hubble Space Telescope observations! While a number of books for the general public emphasise the technological accomplishments of this multi-billion dollar project or deal with the well-publicised flaw in the telescopes optics, this ground-breaking book concentrates on its astronomical success. The authors use results and spectacular images from Hubble itself to illustrate a wide range of astronomical topics, from the great questions about the universe as a whole, to quasars and black holes, and from the life and death of stars to our planetary neighbours in the solar system. The book is rounded off with an overview of the plans for the future of this fascinating telescope. The text contains a large number of spectacular images, as well as self-contained portraits of astronomers and explanations of astronomical topics and instruments. Written in a lively style, this compendium serves as a testament to the significant role the Hubble has played in astronomical accomplishment and discovery over the past five years.

Book Information

Hardcover: 175 pages

Publisher: Copernicus; 1996 edition (May 3, 1996)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0387946721

ISBN-13: 978-0387946726

Product Dimensions: 9.7 x 11.4 x 0.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.8 pounds

Average Customer Review: 3.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (2 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

Probably the first thing I would point out is the book was first published in 1996. Accordingly many of the photographs may have been superceded by more recent shots from Hubble, and recent developments with the telescope are not covered. That aside, I found this book an interesting read. Of particular interest is the coverage of the early days of the telescope and the scandal over the faulty optics. The comparative before and after photographs of the faulty and corrected optics are

also fascinating. There are a large number of photographs in the book which really lends itself well to sitting on the coffee table and occasional viewing. The book is plain black hardcover with a glossy dustjacket. It is set in landscape view and I'm not quite sure what it is but the layout of the book doesn't really gel together that well. I would recommend prospective purchasers check out the book in a library before purchasing to see if it meets their requirements. This book would have received a higher rating in 1996, but it is showing its age now. Check it out first.

I am fortunate enough to have supported the Hubble Space Telescope (helping with testing the ground system at the Goddard Space Flight Center), so I bring an extra level of interest to this book. Which book provides a detailed background on HST, from the first notions of a telescope in space through the problems with the mirror and its resolution. It then goes into the astronomy that has been and is being done with the spacecraft, providing copious and interesting detail along with the breathtaking photographs that HST has become famous for. The result is both a great coffee-table book (for the photographs) and a worthwhile overview of current astronomy and what's being investigated. Recommended.

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