

David C. Catling

ASTROBIOLOGY

A Very Short Introduction



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UNIVERSITY PRESS

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Great Clarendon Street, Oxford, OX2 6DP,
United Kingdom

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First Edition published in 2013

Impression: 2

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Published in the United States of America by Oxford University Press
198 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10016, United States of America

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data

Data available

Library of Congress Control Number: 2013940856

ISBN 978-0-19-958645-5

Printed in Great Britain by
Ashford Colour Press Ltd, Gosport, Hampshire

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WRITING AND SCRIPT
Andrew Robinson

Acknowledgements

I thank Professor John Armstrong, Dr Rory Barnes, Professor John Baross, Dr Billy Brazelton, Professor Roger Buick, Dr Rachel Horak, Imelda Kirby, and Professor Woody Sullivan for reading parts of the manuscript and offering various corrections and suggestions. Thanks also to Latha Menon and Mimi Southwood, who read the entire manuscript, the latter offering the perspective of a non-scientist. Numerous students who attended my astrobiology classes at the University of Washington over the years also helped me mentally prepare for writing this book. At Oxford University Press, I thank Emma Ma and Latha Menon for their encouragement and assistance.

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GALAXIES

A Very Short Introduction

John Gribbin

Galaxies are the building blocks of the Universe: standing like islands in space, each is made up of many hundreds of millions of stars in which the chemical elements are made, around which planets form, and where on at least one of those planets intelligent life has emerged. In this *Very Short Introduction*, renowned science writer John Gribbin describes the extraordinary things that astronomers are learning about galaxies, and explains how this can shed light on the origins and structure of the Universe.

PLANETS

A Very Short Introduction

David A. Rothery

This *Very Short Introduction* looks deep into space and describes the worlds that make up our Solar System: terrestrial planets, giant planets, dwarf planets and various other objects such as satellites (moons), asteroids and Trans-Neptunian objects. It considers how our knowledge has advanced over the centuries, and how it has expanded at a growing rate in recent years. David A. Rothery gives an overview of the origin, nature, and evolution of our Solar System, including the controversial issues of what qualifies as a planet, and what conditions are required for a planetary body to be habitable by life. He looks at rocky planets and the Moon, giant planets and their satellites, and how the surfaces have been sculpted by geology, weather, and impacts.

STARS

A VERY SHORT INTRODUCTION

Andrew King

Every atom of our bodies has been part of a star. Our very own star, the Sun, is crucial to the development and sustainability of life on Earth. This *Very Short Introduction* presents a modern, authoritative examination of how stars live, producing all the chemical elements beyond helium, and how they die, sometimes spectacularly, to end as remnants such as black holes.

Andrew King shows how understanding the stars is key to understanding the galaxies they inhabit, and thus the history of our entire Universe, as well as the existence of planets like our own. King presents a fascinating exploration of the science of stars, from the mechanisms that allow stars to form and the processes that allow them to shine, as well as the results of their inevitable death.

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