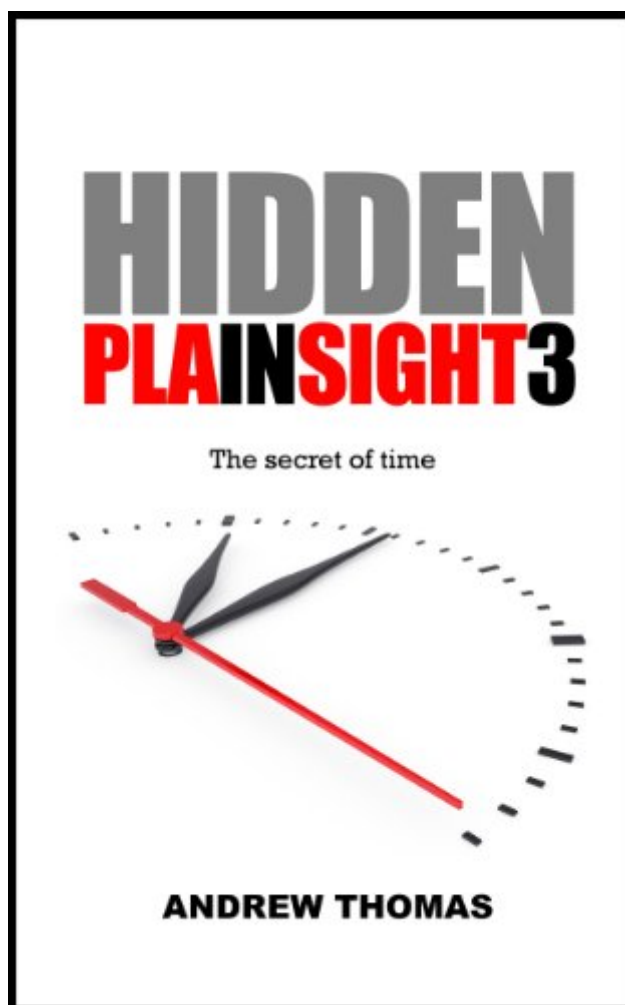


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Hidden In Plain Sight 3: The Secret Of Time



Synopsis

You never knew theoretical physics could be so simple! What is time? Why does time exist? Why can't we remember the future? From Aristotle to Einstein, the mystery of time has puzzled philosophers and physicists down the ages. Enjoy a fascinating detective story to solve the mystery of time - but prepare to be amazed by the twist at the end of the tale!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a poor sequel to the first two books. The crux of the argument is based entirely on the block universe model of time which the author seems to assume that the reader will take at face value. If you are a proponent of this model then the insight into what is time may be intriguing. I was disappointed. A somewhat lazy sequel but for \$1 well worth the adventure

I know of few books that can simply and clearly explain such powerful and fundamental topics as space, time, relativity and gravity. This book is probably one of the best. It may well be the most easily understood treatment of relativity I've seen. It does use a little math, just enough to show the

principle. But it builds most of its picture intuitively, using analogies, stories and thought experiments. May go down as one of the best basic books on relativity ever.

I've read all 3 of the books in this series. The first doesn't resolve the tension between relativity and quantum mechanics but it does show that some resolution must (eventually) be possible. The second introduces a novel theory of gravity and its implications for cosmic expansion but depends for its reality on just how much of the physical universe we can actually see. This third book connects time to the inertial motion imparted to everything in the universe by the Big Bang and provides a basis for time's arrow and dimensional properties. There are a few other recent books from cosmologists that try to explain how integrated space-time can be understood to function by non-physicists. In my opinion Dr. Thomas' explanation in this book is the clearest of them all. All three books in the series are accessible reads for the non-technically trained. Dr. Thomas may or may not prove to be correct in his views by future developments in physics and cosmology, but he does offer a refreshing viewpoint and novel approach to resolving some of the present mysteries in these fields.

All 6 books in this series are well worth the time you'll spend reading them and certainly worth the price. You'll reread sections and realize that maybe you aren't as smart as your associates think you are. Thomas is a little wordy at times but that's okay. Get both the Kindle and print versions... thought provoking and entertaining.

This book was full of great ideas and concepts, but I feel that a better proof-reader/editor would have helped a great deal. There are times when the author jumps to conclusions without explaining some transient intricacies. I don't have much reason to doubt his deductions, but I feel cheated of the explanation when it happens. Couple times he seems to have used the wrong scientific terms in a particular context and I found that confusing as I tried to reconcile the narrative with my own understanding...for instance at one point he says "The earth revolves at a constant velocity around the sun..." - which is flat out wrong. The angular velocity and speed may be constant but the velocity certainly isn't. Little instances like that kept me from really getting into it. That said, the author's choice of skipping on detail has the positive side-effect of making it a shorter and quicker read, which you may appreciate. So, on the whole, a decent read for the time you invest and certainly very good value for money - but treat it as a starting list for further reading.

This book answered fundamental questions I had re. light speed in a concise and clear manner, as well as other issues about reality and space-time without resorting to lots of equations. References to some of my other favorite authors writing for the lay gave it, for me, an aura of agreement with other respected scientists. If you, too, have tried to make sense about current theories of reality like behavior of particles in space-time, give this and Thomas's other volumes of "Hidden In Plain Sight" a try.

Hidden in Plain Sight 3: The secret of time by Andrew Thomas

"Hidden in Plain Sight 3" is part of a wonderful series of science books by physicist, Dr. Andrew Thomas. In his third book of the series, he considers what is time. Using physics only as a guide Thomas takes the reader on a journey that consists of going through the data and reaching an interesting conclusion. I am not a physicist so I can't validate his interesting conclusion but the ride has certainly expanded my understanding of the concepts presented. This enjoyable 169-page book includes the following ten chapters: 1. Introduction, 2. The Speed of Light, 3. Synchronicity, 4. Spacetime, 5. The Arrow of Time, 6. Time Dilation, 7. Inertia, 8. Universal Speed, 9. Energy and Momentum, and 10. The Secret of Time.

Positives:

1. A well-written, succinct, accessible book for the masses.
2. The fascinating topic of time in the hands of an inquisitive mind.
3. Does a wonderful job of introducing concepts and/or scientific principles to the readers at an enjoyable and accessible level.
4. Great use of charts, illustrations and tables to assist readers. I can't stress that enough.
5. Provides a brief history of time. "The first public clock was installed in Orvieto in Italy in 1307, and this innovation spread rapidly throughout the rest of Europe."
6. Find out what Galileo's greatest contribution was. It may not be what you are thinking.
7. Great respect for Maxwell. "And according to Richard Feynman: "From a long view of the history of mankind seen from, say, ten thousand years from now there can be little doubt that the most significant event of the 19th century will be judged as Maxwell's discovery of the laws of electrodynamics."
8. The recurring theme of the Copernican principle. "The Copernican principle states that no point and no observer in the universe holds a privileged position. It certainly seems reasonable to assume that the laws of physics apply equally to all observers the universe is a very equitable place."
9. Plenty of quotes of wisdom. "As Sherlock Holmes said: "When you have eliminated the impossible, all that remains, however improbable, must be the truth."
- 10.

Interesting look at reality based on perspective. *It shows that merely by moving relative to each other, two observers inhabit different realities. It is as if they inhabit two different universes.*

11. An interesting look at spacetime. The most intriguing chapter of the book is the chapter on spacetime. *Time is not actually moving* • there are just multiple copies of you stretched-out through spacetime. The moving "now" slice is just an illusion of human perception.

We do not exist as points in time, we are "stretched-out" as world lines from birth to death • like a millipede. This is the reality of our existence in spacetime.

12. Provocative statements. *So what science and logic seems to be telling us is that the sensation we have of movement through time is nothing more than an illusion generated by our brains!*

13. Interesting connection between entropy and biology. *We can clearly also view the accumulation of DNA errors as an inevitable result of increasing entropy. This explains why cancer is an predominately a disease of old age.*

14. The concept of time dilation. *So if simultaneity is affected by relative motion, then time itself must be affected by relative motion (remember: time itself is defined by simultaneous events).*

15. The laws of motion revisited. 16. A bold conclusion. *So the speed of light is not a universal speed limit at all, it is just the speed that everything is moving* • in spacetime.

17. How the properties of energy and momentum add to the understanding of objects in motion and hence time. *This provides us with a general result: a stationary object moves through time at the speed of light. The only reason the object appears stationary to our eyes is because we are travelling through time at exactly the same speed!*

18. Remarkable results *not going to spoil it.*

19. Further reading material provided. 20. A great Kindle value.

Negatives: 1. Speculative conclusion that hasn't been validated by the scientific community. However, makes a compelling argument to this layperson. 2. Some concepts in theoretical physics are very hard to understand even at the most accessible level. 3. A table illustrating the prevailing consensus in science regarding the topics brought up in the book would add value. 4. Very few endnotes.

In summary, this was a fun and enlightening book on time. Dr. Thomas is an engaging author and scientist who does a wonderful job of building up his case to a revealing conclusion. Great use of charts, equations and a smooth narrative makes for an excellent science book. An excellent digital bargain, I recommend it!

Further recommendations:

Hidden in Plain Sight 1 and 2 • by the same author,

About Time • by Adam Frank, *From Here to*

Eternity [↗](#) by Sean Carroll, [↗](#) "A Question of Time" [↗](#) by Scientific American, [↗](#) "Farewell to Reality: How Modern Physics Has Betrayed the Search for Scientific Truth" [↗](#) by Jim Baggott, [↗](#) "The Elegant Universe" [↗](#) and [↗](#) "Hidden Reality" [↗](#) by Brian Greene, [↗](#) "Faraday, Maxwell and the Electromagnetic Field" [↗](#) by Nancy Forbes, and [↗](#) "Why Does $E=mc^2$?" [↗](#) by Brian Cox.

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