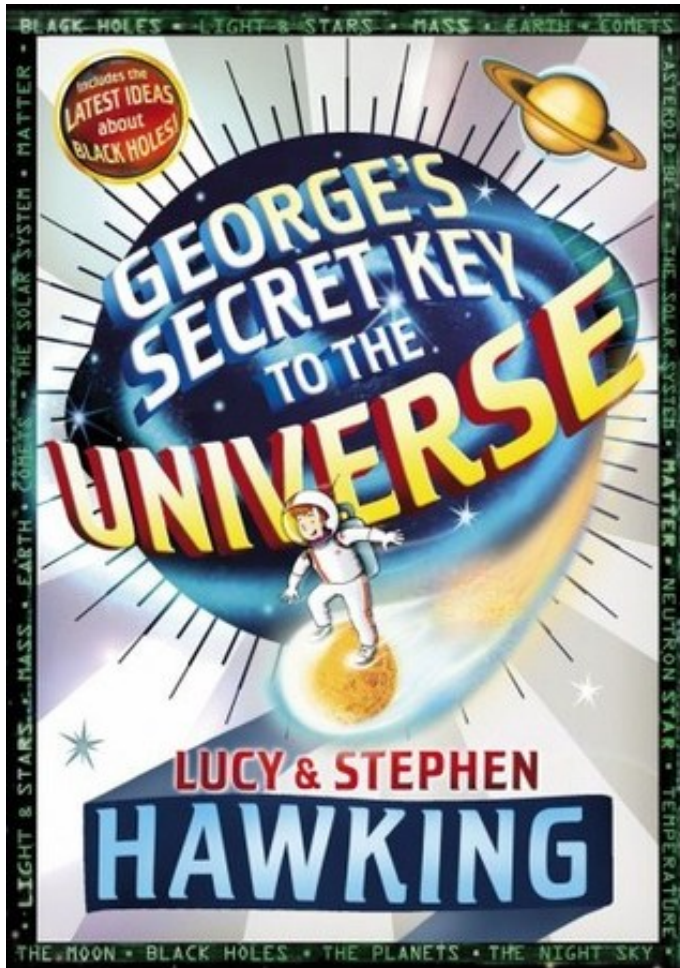


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## Lucy Hawking

### George's Secret Key to the Universe (George #1)



Title: George's Secret Key to the Universe (George #1)

Author: Lucy Hawking

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## Description

Stephen Hawking, author of the multi-million copy bestselling *A Brief History of Time*, and his daughter Lucy explain the universe to readers of all ages. George's parents, who have always been wary of technology, warn him about their new neighbors: Eric is a scientist and his daughter, Annie, seems to be following in his footsteps. But when George befriends them and Cosmos, their super-computer, he finds himself on a wildly fun adventure, while learning about physics, time, and the universe. With Cosmos's help, he can travel to other planets and a black hole. But what would happen if the wrong people got their hands on Cosmos? George, Annie, and Eric aren't about to find out, and what ensues is a funny adventure that clearly explains the mysteries of science.

Garry Parsons' energetic illustrations add humor and interest, and his scientific drawings add clarity; there are also eight 4-page full-color inserts of scientific photos.

## Insightful reviews

Agatha: Recommended! Kind of like the Magic Tree House books, but it teaches science and outer space, instead of history or biographies. Both my 6yo daughter and I found it very interesting, compelling, and readable! (I read it out loud to her.)

George and his parents live in England and his parents are very into saving the Earth and eschewing technology. They have told him to stay out of the backyard of the house next door, which, apparently, is abandoned. The previous owner, an old man, went mysteriously missing and no one knows why. But one day George's pet pig escapes into that backyard and George must run after him. He spies lights on in the kitchen, enters (following the pig) and meets a little girl (Annie) and her dad (Eric) who have apparently moved in! Eric is a scientist and he has a very powerful computer named Cosmos through which one can enter a portal into outer space. (Eric's wife and Annie's mom Susan is away helping take care of Annie's sick granny.) Eric, Annie, and George go on lots of adventures into outer space and Annie and Eric teach George new things about each planet, comets, meteors, asteroids, solar systems, galaxies, and black holes as they travel.

A mystery ensues involving a malcontent teacher at their school who, with the help of some local bullies, seems to be trying to steal Cosmos for his one malevolent gain. Eric falls into a black hole and it is thought that he'll never get out again. Like we were all taught, George thinks that it is impossible to escape from a black hole. But not true! Recent discoveries (true story) have shown that a black hole is in fact NOT eternal and that, as it breaks down (over billions and billions of years) all of the matter which was sucked into it is gradually expelled in small particles; once it starts expelling it, it gets faster and faster. Cosmos is able to put Eric's particles back together again and the day is saved.

A quite interesting read! There are two more in the series which my daughter has asked me to get at the library, so I'll now go on to look for #2! (I certainly learned new information and/or

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solidified my own understanding of these things – was much easier to “get” in the form of a story rather than some boring ol’ text book. It made me personally more interested in outer space, a topic which previously sort of left me cold and “eh.”)

PS I also liked how Annie was a key character, so it wasn’t all “boy-focused” the way it would have been if there was just George. However, I did note that, in the end, it was George who discovered Eric’s notes re black holes not being eternal. . . I sort of wished that could have been Annie’s discovery (at least b/c I was reading this to a young girl )or, at least, that they could have done this together. I’ll see how the next 2 books are on this. . . .

Kyra: When I went to the library the other day, I saw this book sitting on the middle-grade shelf. I still remember getting a few sample chapters of this book in England in a magazine, yet I never got around to reading it. As I am obsessed with physics and learning about space, I thought this would be a good book to read and I can safely say I absolutely adored it!

George's Secret Key to the Universe is about George, a little boy who is the son of two eco-friendly, planet saving activists who think science and technology are out to destroy the world. When George goes next door to rescue his pet pig Freddy who escaped to the house next door, a place where George has been forbidden to go, he meets Annie and Eric. Annie is a little girl with a vivid imagination who lives with her scientist dad Eric and her mom. When George becomes friends with them, they open him up to the whole fantastic world of science and let him experience being in space first hand with their fantastic computer that is able to send Eric, Annie and George to outer-space, in order to try and find a new habitable planet. But however, with the power Eric possesses due his extraordinary computer, there are evil forces out there who will stop at nothing to get Cosmos the computer and use it for a despicable purpose.

I had so much fun reading this book! Sometimes I'm quite wary of reading middle-grades, as a lot of them are just a bit too young for me to enjoy but I really enjoyed this! I love the science lessons that were placed throughout the novel as well as the full-colour illustrations that showed the images taken from outer-space. I loved learning all these new fantastic things, and the story in itself was so imaginative and colourful!

I would absolutely love to be George and by the mere press of the button, enter into space, riding a comet and bypassing Jupiter, Saturn, the Moon and all the other planets/moons/space things out there. You could so vividly picture stepping out of the portal and seeing the inky black sky and the thousands of stars and colourful planets. I loved reading the descriptions of them going into space, as I would love to be in that position one day.

The characters were very lovable. I loved George and his enthusiastic, positive personality and the way he loved learning new things. Annie was an adorable character with an extremely vivid imagination and really had her own personality and interesting sense of style. Eric was a fantastic parent and I was extremely glad that he was so patient in answering all of George's numerous questions. George's parents were sweet too, and you could see how driven they were to save the planet. Freddy the pig was lovely, as well! I connected with all the characters

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and loved each and every one of them, except for Dr Reeper and Ringo and his gang of bullies.

George's Secret Key to the Universe was an utterly fantastic, fast-paced, adventure novel set half on earth and half in space. There were tons of fantastically fun facts on the greater depths of outer space carefully weaved throughout the novel. This book will appeal to any science lovers of any age. It was a great adventure and it was truly wonderful reading this book as it felt like I was in outer-space, myself. I wish Cosmos did actually exist as I think it would be an utterly life-changing experience. I also like how this book taught us that whilst it might be important to find another planet that humans can inhabit in case the earth gets destroyed...that we really should focus on saving the earth, as there isn't an endless amount of food/water and I think people often forget that.

This is a fantastic adventure that I recommend to everyone! Anyone who is a fan of physics (or not!) and wonders how it is to be out in space should read this book for an awesome reading experience!

Mary: I listened to this on audiobook. I gave 3 stars for the story but 5 stars for the narration. Good introduction to science fiction for elementary school age. Uncomplicated plot, not scary. This is also good to offer to young scientists, and it would be a good family audiobook...if the family is interested in physics.

Hawking introduces concepts like black holes and basic physics throughout the book. Although these are woven into the storyline (George's neighbor is a scientist, George is working on a science project, etc.), these scientific passages can become distracting.

However, I did enjoy the narration, I liked the characters...and I even learned some science!

Aaveg Mishra: the bright mastermind and astrophysicist Stephen Hawking and his daughter Lucy Hawking mix to make a publication that could catch the eye of many younger readers. This booklet George's mystery Key to the Universe conveys loads of details of the numerous issues within the immense universe that stretches past our bare eyes. This paintings of clinical fiction is written in a manner that may be effortless to read, and offers a secret within the historical past of the story. The tale is set a boy whose mom and dad are nature lovers, and wish to avoid wasting our gorgeous planet Earth from getting totally polluted and brought over by means of technology. The boy's identify is George, and he desires a few expertise in his apartment simply because they don't have a car, TV, a computer, or perhaps a phone. He desperately wishes a working laptop or computer for himself. He has new neighbors, and he's now not allowed to enter their house. He surreptitiously sneaks into their apartment that allows you to locate his misplaced puppy pig. in the home he meets a scientist who loves the Universe, and has loads of expertise contrasting to his family. There he meets a woman named Annie, the scientist's daughter. The scientist's identify is Eric. He meets a supercomputer named Cosmos which may take a person anyplace within the Universe. yet Eric will get caught in a black hole, and George has a technological know-how pageant to wait that rewards a working laptop or computer to the 1st position person. Cosmos is taken into the incorrect hands. what is going to occur to all of them? learn the publication to discover out. it truly is enjoyable to read, and has lots info for you to go a 7th grade technological know-how type by means of analyzing and

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maintaining the data given. The language during this publication presents no horror or something irrelevant for younger children. when you begin analyzing it, it's going to be tricky to stop. for those who don't just like the Universe. or imagine that area is dumb, then simply learn the 1st 20 pages of this book. you will be caught to the publication like a magnet. belief me on that. I didn't just like the Universe prior to studying this book, yet I learn the 1st few pages, and that i couldn't stop. learn this ebook to understand how extraordinary astronomy is. this could be a fun, and a superb studying event for children attracted to the excellent and superb universe round us. This publication is just \$3.99 on eBay, and it really is \$1.49 on the least expensive on Amazon. you would like THIS BOOK!!!

Carla Cove: nice book! I learn this whilst our eldest son was once 8yo and he nonetheless recalls a lot of the technological know-how he discovered from it. I simply entire interpreting this e-book to our 5yo and he used to be perpetually begging for the following bankruptcy and telling all his buddies in regards to the story!! Very enticing and beautiful principles generator.

John: Wow, what a disappointment. Hawking stoops (in either the avian and, to pass judgement on from the result, aristocratic senses of the word) to overcome a tender audience, and lands tough on his beak. This SF story is festooned with technological know-how lessons, and is it seems that meant to persuade younger readers of the significance of figuring out the legislation of physics--yet these legislation are blown off many times because the tale is going along. Furthermore, there are those large gaps in inner logic--for instance, younger George's mom and dad are such eco-activists that they decline to permit a TV, mobilephone or computing device within the house, yet see not anything incorrect with developing a hand-crafted electrical generator (I ask yourself what it runs on!). And, for the reason that of the 3 authors are knowledgeable scientists, their seize on simple astro-facts is beautiful shaky; they declare that the moon Ganymede is ready the dimensions of Earth's Moon, and in different places individual uncovered to area could freeze in an instant--both of that are wrong. I learn this as an ARC, and perhaps the latter may be corrected within the ultimate model (one can continually hope). Still, how not easy wouldn't it were to set the tale in our genuine universe, the place lightspeed is a restrict and planets are literally some distance aside to underpin the technological know-how instruction? The book'll most likely promote well. Too bad, simply because it really is lazy paintings and disrespectful of its meant audience.

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