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The Beginning and the End of Everything From the Big Bang to the End of the Universe

Paul Parsons

Keynote

***The Beginning and the End of Everything* is the whole story as we currently understand it – from nothing, to the birth of our universe, to its ultimate fate. Authoritative and engaging, Paul Parsons takes us on a rollercoaster ride through billions of light years to tell the story of the Big Bang, from birth to death.**

Description

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13.8 billion years ago, something incredible happened. Matter, energy, space and time all suddenly burst into existence in a cataclysmic event that's come to be known as the Big Bang. It was the birth of our universe. What started life smaller than the tiniest subatomic particle is now unimaginably vast and plays home to trillions of galaxies. The formulation of the Big Bang theory is a story that combines some of the most far-reaching concepts in fundamental physics with equally far-reaching observations of the universe. And as our understanding of the birth of the universe deepens, so does the realization that it cannot last for ever.

Including the latest astronomical observations and theoretical breakthroughs, as well as examining the theories that reveal how our universe could end, this is an enlightening account of modern cosmology.

Sales Points

- A comprehensive and fascinating tour of the birth and eventual death of the universe, to engage the non-scientist. From ancient beliefs about the stars and the planets, to the discovery that the universe is expanding, Einstein's general theory of relativity and Hawking's quantum theory of gravity, through to the Big Bang cosmology of today – all this has led us to understand that the existence of the universe is finite. But how will it end?
- Exciting observations in 2015 and 2017 of gravitational waves, which potentially allow observations of the birth of the universe for the first time in history, have piqued interest in cosmology and specifically the Big Bang
- Paul Parsons, a former theoretical cosmologist, is a science journalist, author and former editor of *BBC Focus Magazine*. He has frequently appeared on radio and TV and is available for PR
- **Comparative titles:**
A Universe from Nothing by Lawrence M. Krauss (S&S, 2012)
Origins by Neil DeGrasse Tyson (W. W. Norton, 2014)

Author Biography

Dr Paul Parsons was formerly a theoretical cosmologist at the University of Sussex, developing models to explain how the microphysics of the Big Bang determined the large-scale structure of the universe today. Now a science journalist and author, he has contributed articles to the *Guardian*, the *Daily Telegraph* and *New Scientist*, and has also served both as editor of the award-winning BBC science magazine *Focus* and as managing editor of *BBC Sky at Night* magazine. His previous books include *The Periodic Table*, *How to Destroy the Universe* and *The Science of Doctor Who*.