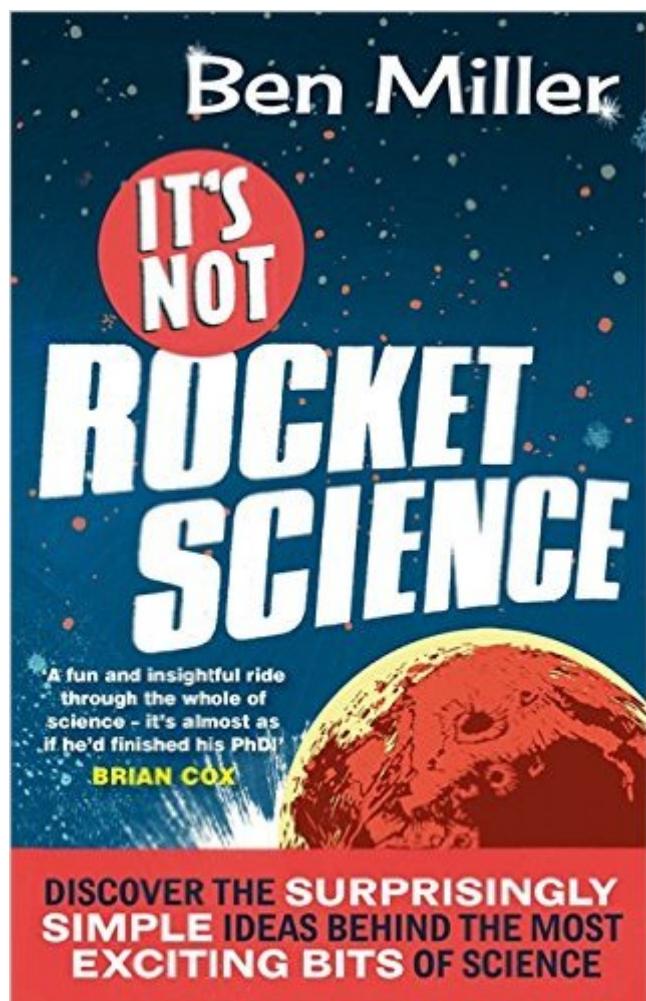


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It's Not Rocket Science



Synopsis

The Top Ten Bestseller Black holes. DNA. The Large Hadron Collider. Ever had that sneaking feeling that you are missing out on some truly spectacular science? You do? Well, fear not, for help is at hand. Ben Miller was working on his Physics PhD at Cambridge when he accidentally became a comedian. But first love runs deep, and he has returned to his roots to share with you all his favourite bits of science. This is the stuff you really need to know, not only because it matters but because it will quite simply amaze and delight you. 'Let me show you another, perhaps less familiar side of Science; her beauty, her seductiveness and her passion. And let's do it quickly, while Maths isn't looking' Ben Miller 'This book makes climate change actually seem interesting. Not just important - it's obviously important - but interesting. As a result I bought lots of other books about climate change, something I now regret' David Mitchell Ben Miller is, like you, a mutant ape living through an Ice Age on a ball of molten iron, orbiting a supermassive black hole. He is also an actor, comedian and approximately one half of Armstrong & Miller. He's presented a BBC Horizon documentary on temperature and a Radio 4 series about the history of particle physics, and has written a science column for The Times. He is slowly coming to terms with the idea that he may never be an astronaut.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

No understatement to say this is one of the best books I've ever read. I have a passionate interest in all of the topics covered in this book but often feel put-off by the dense science background/mathematics needed to make head-and-tail of them in most literature. Perhaps more

importantly, those books often fail to contextualise their scientific content so that they read as an assembly of random facts with little meaning. It's Not Rocket Science clearly relates why these topics matter, using wonderful (and very funny) analogies for more abstract concepts. I've been recommending this to people of all levels, from total beginners to those more knowledgeable on the subject. For example, I learnt new things about areas I am more familiar with, such as the chapters on DNA and evolution, and the other topics I knew less about I truly found mind-blowing. Moreover, Ben Miller writes so well and is so entertaining making the book a genuine pleasure to read. I plan to reread the book in a few months time I enjoyed it so much. I've also now ordered several books on astronomy and quantum physics to continue reading on the topic and am more keenly stargazing than before. This book really opened my eyes. Enjoy!

...you would have learned a lot of this stuff in school. Science matters, but it can be a forbiddingly opaque subject. Topics like climate change, space exploration, personal robotics, genetic engineering, and technical advancements that are fundamentally changing our notions of privacy and civil rights, law, and our political systems make it ever more critical that we all have a better understanding of what science is and how it works. In this funny, accurate, engaging, and informative little book, Ben Miller breaks down a number of important science topics and makes them approachable for reasonably literate people who endured the general-ed science requirement without learning much. It will not make you an expert on anything, but it will tell you the stuff an educated citizen should know and you'll know enough to intelligently choose further resources and ask questions on the topics that most pique your interest.

Fairly engaging so far, but chatty in a sort of 'assuming reader-anxiety'-way. Stops just shy of arrogance, so still readable, but the author spends more time telling the reader that things are mind-blowing, when he could maybe just blow our minds by really getting into what he's been talking around. Maybe he'll get there. If he does, I'll come back and say so. I promise.

A great concept book to help explain some of the more advance topics of physics. It can be a little hard to follow if you only read a few sections at a time, it is best to read the whole chapter so all the info is fresh in your mind. Ben Miller does a great job making it fun and keeps your interests.

This is a brilliantly written science book for both scientists and non-scientists alike. Ben Miller does an excellent look at major science areas and topics relevant to today's society and science

community alike. I highly recommend this book to everyone, the only thing I would recommend even more is the Audio book, with Ben's intended tone and unique flavor of comedy added it makes for a wonderful listen.

This author is the best for science fun! He was wonderful to watch as the actor/comedian and to learn about his physics studies was a real bonus! I haven't finished this yet, but look forward to reading every day!

There are a few authors who can make even complicated subjects easy and obscure subjects fun, and Ben Miller is one of them. I understand he's working on a book about space science and exploration now. I want it.

Miller's love of science, and his appreciation for early teachers who made math and science fun, shine through this book. Engaging and humorous explanations are given in terms everyone can understand.

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