



Nothing: A Very Short Introduction

By Frank Close

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Nothing: A Very Short Introduction By Frank Close

This short, smart book tells you everything you need to know about "nothing." What remains when you take all the matter away? Can empty space--"nothing"--exist? To answer these questions, eminent scientist Frank Close takes us on a lively and accessible journey that ranges from ancient ideas and cultural superstitions to the frontiers of current research, illuminating the story of how scientists have explored the void and the rich discoveries they have made there. Readers will find an enlightening history of the vacuum: how the efforts to make a better vacuum led to the discovery of the electron; the ideas of Newton, Mach, and Einstein on the nature of space and time; the mysterious aether and how Einstein did away with it; and the latest ideas that the vacuum is filled with the Higgs field. The story ranges from the absolute zero of temperature and the seething vacuum of virtual particles and anti-particles that fills space, to the extreme heat and energy of the early universe.

About the Series: Combining authority with wit, accessibility, and style, **Very Short Introductions** offer an introduction to some of life's most interesting topics. Written by experts for the newcomer, they demonstrate the finest contemporary thinking about the central problems and issues in hundreds of key topics, from philosophy to Freud, quantum theory to Islam.

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Editorial Review

Review

`Review from previous edition: All in all, this book makes for some fascinating reading.' Chemistry World, Dennis Rouvray.

`An accessible and entertaining read for layperson and scientist alike.' Physics World

`The Void is well worth reading.' Robert Cailliau. CERN Courier.

`It covers very complicated concepts in a mostly accessible way.' Lawrence Rudnick, Nature

`A fascinating subject covered by a fascinating book.' Marcus Chown, Focus

About the Author

Frank Close, OBE, is Professor of Physics at Oxford University and a Fellow of Exeter College and was formerly vice president of the British Association for Advancement of Science.

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