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# The Planets Dava Sobel

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The Unexpected Tragedy of Richard Carrington and the Tale of How Modern Astronomy Began  
A Historical Memoir of Science, Faith, and Love  
The Planets  
How the Ladies of the Harvard Observatory Took the Measure of the Stars  
Galileo's Daughter  
A Space Traveler's Guide to the Solar System  
Democracy, Reason, and the Laws of Nature  
The Planets  
Hidden Worlds and the Quest for Extraterrestrial Life  
The Illustrated Longitude  
Planets  
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How Copernicus Revolutionised the Cosmos  
And the Sun Stood Still  
Chasing the Revolutions of Nicolaus Copernicus  
The Hidden History of the Women Who Took the Measure of the Stars  
The Scientific Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence  
The Planets  
Alone in the Universe  
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The Book Nobody Read  
Conversations with Galileo  
Science and the Human Spirit  
Is Anyone Out There?  
A More Perfect Heaven  
Longitude  
The Art and Science of the Universe  
How Copernicus Revolutionised the Cosmos  
The Glass Universe  
A Sense of the Mysterious  
The Planets  
The True Story of a Lone Genius Who Solved the Greatest Scientific Problem of His Time  
The Glass Universe  
Mapmaking with Children  
A Historical Memoir of Science, Faith and Love

*The Planets Dava Sobel*

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## HOWARD KYLAN

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### The Unexpected Tragedy of Richard Carrington and the Tale of How Modern Astronomy Began A&C Black

Longitude, Dava Sobel's no.1 bestseller, is the elegant biography of the lone genius who solved the greatest scientific problem of his times. With new material from Dava Sobel and William Andrewes, and illustrated with over 200 integrated photographs, *The Illustrated Longitude* is the essential book for everyone who fell in love with John Harrison's story and wants to know more. Anyone alive in the 18th century would have known that 'the longitude problem' was the thorniest scientific dilemma of the day -- and had been for centuries. Lacking the ability to measure their longitude, sailors throughout the great ages of exploration had been literally lost at sea as soon as they lost sight of land. The scientific establishment throughout Europe -- from Galileo to Sir Isaac Newton -- had mapped the heavens in its certain pursuit of a celestial answer. In stark contrast, one man, John Harrison, dared to imagine a mechanical solution. *The Illustrated Longitude* is a fascinating history of astronomy, navigation and clockmaking. Lavishly produced with over 200 illustrations, *The Illustrated Longitude* has much new material to help the reader learn more of John Harrison's extraordinary story an *A Historical Memoir of Science, Faith, and Love* Harper Collins

An analysis of the scientific and social impact of the Polish astronomer's pivotal sixteenth-century work traces how his challenge to beliefs about an earth-centric solar system had a profound

influence on the ways in which humanity understands itself and the universe.

20,000 first printing.

*The Planets* A&C Black

Dava Sobel's *The Glass Universe* will be available from Viking in December 2016 With her bestsellers *Longitude* and *Galileo's Daughter*, Dava Sobel introduced readers to her rare gift for weaving complex scientific concepts into a compelling narrative. Now Sobel brings her full talents to bear on what is perhaps her most ambitious topic to date-the planets of our solar system. Sobel explores the origins and oddities of the planets through the lens of popular culture, from astrology, mythology, and science fiction to art, music, poetry, biography, and history. Written in her characteristically graceful prose, *The Planets* is a stunningly original celebration of our solar system and offers a distinctive view of our place in the universe. \* A New York Times extended bestseller \* A Featured Alternate of the Book-of-the-Month Club, History Book Club, Scientific American Book Club, and Natural Science Book Club \* Includes 11 full-color illustrations by artist Lynette R. Cook "[The Planets] lets us fall in love with the heavens all over again." -The New York Times Book Review "Playful . . . lyrical . . . a guided tour so imaginative that we forget we're being educated as we're being entertained." -Newsweek " [Sobel] has outdone her extraordinary talent for keeping readers enthralled. . . . Longitude and Galileo's Daughter were exciting enough, but *The Planets* has a charm of its own . . . A splendid and enticing book." -San Francisco Chronicle "A sublime journey. [Sobel's] writing . . . is as bright as the sun and its thinking as star-studded as the cosmos." -The Atlanta Journal-Constitution "An

incantatory serenade to the Solar System. Grade A-" -Entertainment Weekly "Like Sobel's [Longitude and Galileo's Daughter] . . . [The Planets] combines masterful storytelling with clear, engaging explanations of the essential scientific facts." -Physics World

How the Ladies of the Harvard Observatory Took the Measure of the Stars Bloomsbury Publishing USA

The New York Times bestselling tour of the cosmos from three of today's leading astrophysicists Welcome to the Universe is a personal guided tour of the cosmos by three of today's leading astrophysicists. Inspired by the enormously popular introductory astronomy course that Neil deGrasse Tyson, Michael A. Strauss, and J. Richard Gott taught together at Princeton, this book covers it all—from planets, stars, and galaxies to black holes, wormholes, and time travel. Describing the latest discoveries in astrophysics, the informative and entertaining narrative propels you from our home solar system to the outermost frontiers of space. How do stars live and die? Why did Pluto lose its planetary status? What are the prospects of intelligent life elsewhere in the universe? How did the universe begin? Why is it expanding and why is its expansion accelerating? Is our universe alone or part of an infinite multiverse? Answering these and many other questions, the authors open your eyes to the wonders of the cosmos, sharing their knowledge of how the universe works. Breathtaking in scope and stunningly illustrated throughout, Welcome to the Universe is for those who hunger for insights into our evolving universe that only world-class astrophysicists can provide.

*Galileo's Daughter* The Planets  
From #1 New York Times bestselling

author Dava Sobel, the "inspiring" (People), little-known true story of women's landmark contributions to astronomy A New York Times Book Review Notable Book of 2017 Named one of the best books of the year by NPR, The Economist, Smithsonian, Nature, and NPR's Science Friday Nominated for the PEN/E.O. Wilson Literary Science Writing Award "A joy to read." —The Wall Street Journal In the mid-nineteenth century, the Harvard College Observatory began employing women as calculators, or "human computers," to interpret the observations their male counterparts made via telescope each night. At the outset this group included the wives, sisters, and daughters of the resident astronomers, but soon the female corps included graduates of the new women's colleges—Vassar, Wellesley, and Smith. As photography transformed the practice of astronomy, the ladies turned from computation to studying the stars captured nightly on glass photographic plates. The "glass universe" of half a million plates that Harvard amassed over the ensuing decades—through the generous support of Mrs. Anna Palmer Draper, the widow of a pioneer in stellar photography—enabled the women to make extraordinary discoveries that attracted worldwide acclaim. They helped discern what stars were made of, divided the stars into meaningful categories for further research, and found a way to measure distances across space by starlight. Their ranks included Williamina Fleming, a Scottish woman originally hired as a maid who went on to identify ten novae and more than three hundred variable stars; Annie Jump Cannon, who designed a stellar classification system that was adopted by astronomers the world over and is

still in use; and Dr. Cecilia Helena Payne, who in 1956 became the first ever woman professor of astronomy at Harvard—and Harvard's first female department chair. Elegantly written and enriched by excerpts from letters, diaries, and memoirs, *The Glass Universe* is the hidden history of the women whose contributions to the burgeoning field of astronomy forever changed our understanding of the stars and our place in the universe.

*A Space Traveler's Guide to the Solar System* Simon and Schuster  
The Planets Penguin

**Democracy, Reason, and the Laws of Nature** Princeton University Press  
The bestselling author of *Longitude* and *Galileo's Daughter* tells the story of Nicolaus Copernicus and the revolution in astronomy that changed the world.

*The Planets* Bloomsbury Publishing USA  
Presents a biography of the scientist through the surviving letters of his illegitimate daughter Maria Celeste, who wrote him from the Florence convent where she lived from the age of thirteen.

**Hidden Worlds and the Quest for Extraterrestrial Life** Harvard University Press

In his most powerful book to date, award-winning author Timothy Ferris makes a passionate case for science as the inspiration behind the rise of liberalism and democracy. Ferris shows how science was integral to the American Revolution but misinterpreted in the French Revolution; reflects on the history of liberalism, stressing its widely underestimated and mutually beneficial relationship with science; and surveys the forces that have opposed science and liberalism—from communism and fascism to postmodernism and Islamic fundamentalism. A sweeping intellectual history, *The Science of Liberty* is a

stunningly original work that transcends the antiquated concepts of left and right.

**The Illustrated Longitude** Penguin  
The dramatic human story of an epic scientific quest and of one man's forty-year obsession to find a solution to the thorniest scientific dilemma of the day—"the longitude problem." Anyone alive in the eighteenth century would have known that "the longitude problem" was the thorniest scientific dilemma of the day—and had been for centuries. Lacking the ability to measure their longitude, sailors throughout the great ages of exploration had been literally lost at sea as soon as they lost sight of land. Thousands of lives and the increasing fortunes of nations hung on a resolution. One man, John Harrison, in complete opposition to the scientific community, dared to imagine a mechanical solution—a clock that would keep precise time at sea, something no clock had ever been able to do on land. *Longitude* is the dramatic human story of an epic scientific quest and of Harrison's forty-year obsession with building his perfect timekeeper, known today as the chronometer. Full of heroism and chicanery, it is also a fascinating brief history of astronomy, navigation, and clockmaking, and opens a new window on our world.

**Planets** Bloomsbury Publishing USA  
Within the last 40 years, the contents of our solar system have been slowly revealed by a fleet of satellites and interplanetary probes, from Cassini to the Hubble Space Telescope to the recent Mars Exploration Rovers. Moving out from the Sun, every planet and moon is visited in this comprehensive survey that follows the tracks of robotic rovers over Mars, plunges through Titan's atmosphere on the back of the Huygens probe, inspects a comet, and

discovers the frozen planets that lurk beyond the orbit of Neptune, a full light year from Earth. The breathtaking images of dozens of celestial bodies are accompanied by fascinating captions and informative diagrams, completing this stunning compilation.

The Sun Kings Fourth Estate

In lyrical prose THE PLANETS gives a breathtaking, close-up perspective on those heavenly bodies that have captured the imagination of humanity since that first glimpse at the glittering night skies. This is an extraordinary book of science, history, biography and storytelling. Timely and timeless, THE PLANETS will engage and delight as it unravels the mysteries of the cosmos.

**Cosmos** Wiley

After The Huge National And International Success Of 'Longitude' And 'Galileo'S Daughter', Dava Sobel Tells The Human Story Of The Nine Planets Of Our Solar System. This Groundbreaking New Work Traces The 'Lives' Of Each Member Of Our Solar Family, From Myth And History, Astrology And Science Fiction, To The Latest Data From The Modern Era'S Robotic Space Probes. Whether Revealing What Hides Behind Venus'S Cocoon Of Acid Clouds, Describing Neptune'S Complex Beauty, Or Capturing First-Hand The Excitement At The Jet Propulsion Laboratory When The First Pictures From Cassini At Saturn Were Recently Beamed To Earth, Dava Sobel'S Unique Tour Of The Solar System Is Filled With Fascination And Beauty. In Lyrical Prose Interspersed With Poems By Tennyson, Blake And Others, 'The Planets' Gives A Breathtaking, Intimate View Of Those Heavenly Bodies That Have Captured The Imagination Since Humanity'S First Glimpse Of The Glittering Night Skies. Timely And Timeless, 'The Planets' Will Engage And

Delight As It Unravels The Mysteries Of The Cosmos. It Is Of Infinite Relevance To This Age In Which New Planets Are Being Discovered Elsewhere In Our Galaxy. Ödrön Is A Spiritual Teacher For Anyone Whether They Have A Spiritual Path Or Not. Her Heartfelt Advice And Wisdom (Developed In Her 20 Years Of Practice As A Tibetan Buddhist Nun As Well As Her Years Previously As A Normal Housewife And Mother ) Give Her A Wide Appeal. Particularly In These Difficult Times, This Advice Strikes Just The Right Note, Offering Us Comfort And Challenging Us To Live Deeply And Contribute To Creating A More Loving World.

How Copernicus Revolutionised the Cosmos Fourth Estate

Argues that exercise is the best therapy for backache, discusses motivation, recommends specific exercises, and covers yoga, meditation, and life-style changes

**And the Sun Stood Still** Macmillan

When she was 13, Virginia Galilei, eldest daughter of the great scientist Galileo, was placed by her father in a convent near him in Florence and took the name Suor Maria Celeste. Unable to see him except on his occasional visits, she wrote him continually, as her 124 surviving letters (which Galileo kept) attest. Now, for the first time, all of these letters are reproduced in English, translated by Dava Sobel, and in their original Italian, and Ms. Sobel has also written an introduction and annotations placing the letters in historical context. The 124 letters span only a decade of Maria Celeste's 33 years. In that dramatic period, a pope came to power who battled the Protestant Reformation; the Thirty Years' War embroiled all of Europe; the bubonic plague erupted across Italy; and a new philosophy of

science, promulgated most forcefully by Galileo himself, threatened to overturn the order of the universe. Maria Celeste's evocative, beautifully written letters touch on all of these situations, but they dwell in the small details of everyday life; and though Galileo's letters to her have not survived, it is clear from hers that he answered every one. Especially for those who have read Ms. Sobel's *Galileo's Daughter*, but even for those who haven't, Maria Celeste's letters provide an indelible chronicle of convent life in the early 17th century, a memorable portrait of deep affection between a famous father and his daughter, and fascinating insight into Galileo himself.

**Chasing the Revolutions of Nicolaus Copernicus** Bloomsbury Publishing USA

During the 1530s, rumours of a potentially revolutionary theory of how the heavens worked emanating from a small city in Poland began to spread throughout Europe. The architect of this theory was a Polish cleric named Nicolaus Copernicus. In around 1514 Copernicus had written and hand-copied an initial outline of his heliocentric theory, in which he placed the Sun, not the Earth, at the centre of our universe, with the planets, including the Earth, revolving about it. Titled his *Commentariolus*, it circulated among a very few astronomers. Over the next two decades Copernicus expanded his theory through hundreds of sightings, leading to a secretive manuscript whose existence tantalised mathematicians and scientists all over the world. In 1539 a young German mathematician, Georg Joachim Rheticus, travelled to Frombork to meet Copernicus; months later he departed with the manuscript for the book that would change the way we understand our place in the universe. Rheticus

arranged for the publication of *De Revolutionibus Orbium Coelestium* (On the Revolutions of the Celestial Spheres) - legend has it Copernicus received a copy on his deathbed. This book would forever change the way we thought about our place in the universe. In her compelling style, Dava Sobel chronicles the history of the Copernican Revolution, relating the story of astronomy from Aristotle to the Middle Ages. And as she achieved with her international bestsellers *Longitude* and *Galileo's Daughter*, in *A More Perfect Heaven*, Sobel expands the bounds of popular science writing, giving us an unforgettable portrait of a major step forward in the human knowledge of our universe.

*The Hidden History of the Women Who Took the Measure of the Stars* Princeton University Press

Inspired by a long fascination with Galileo, and by the remarkable surviving letters of Galileo's daughter, a cloistered nun, Dava Sobel has written a biography unlike any other of the man Albert Einstein called "the father of modern physics- indeed of modern science altogether." *Galileo's Daughter* also presents a stunning portrait of a person hitherto lost to history, described by her father as "a woman of exquisite mind, singular goodness, and most tenderly attached to me." *Galileo's Daughter* dramatically recolors the personality and accomplishment of a mythic figure whose seventeenth-century clash with Catholic doctrine continues to define the schism between science and religion. Moving between Galileo's grand public life and Maria Celeste's sequestered world, Sobel illuminates the Florence of the Medicis and the papal court in Rome during the pivotal era when humanity's perception of its place in the cosmos was



about to be overturned. In that same time, while the bubonic plague wreaked its terrible devastation and the Thirty Years' War tipped fortunes across Europe, one man sought to reconcile the Heaven he revered as a good Catholic with the heavens he revealed through his telescope. With all the human drama and scientific adventure that distinguished Dava Sobel's previous book *Longitude*, *Galileo's Daughter* is an unforgettable story

**The Scientific Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence** Delta

In this book, David Sobel explains how mapmaking has relevance across the curriculum.

*The Planets* Sky Publishing Corporation  
The acclaimed author of *In Search of Schrödinger's Cat* searches for life on other planets. Are we alone in the universe? Surely amidst the immensity of the cosmos there must be other intelligent life out there. Don't be so sure, says John Gribbin, one of today's best popular science writers. In this fascinating and intriguing new book, Gribbin argues that the very existence of intelligent life anywhere in the cosmos

is, from an astrophysicist's point of view, a miracle. So why is there life on Earth and (seemingly) nowhere else? What happened to make this planet special? Taking us back some 600 million years, Gribbin lets you experience the series of unique cosmic events that were responsible for our unique form of life within the Milky Way Galaxy. Written by one of our foremost popular science writers, author of the bestselling *In Search of Schrödinger's Cat* Offers a bold answer to the eternal question, "Are we alone in the universe?"

Explores how the impact of a "supercomet" with Venus 600 million years ago created our moon, and along with it, the perfect conditions for life on Earth. From one of our most talented science writers, this book is a daring, fascinating exploration into the dawning of the universe, cosmic collisions and their consequences, and the uniqueness of life on Earth.

*Alone in the Universe* Penguin

With her debut play, the acclaimed author of *Longitude*, *Galileo's Daughter*, and *A More Perfect Heaven* celebrates one of the greatest moments in the history of science.

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