



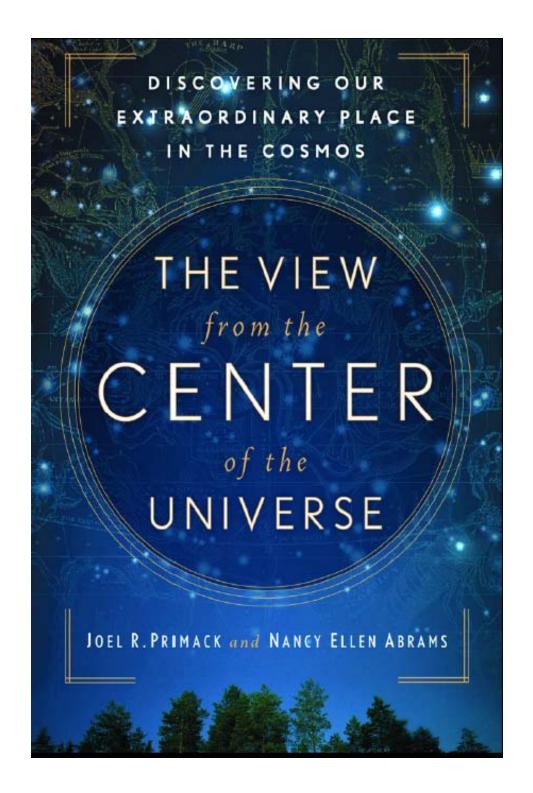
Joel R. Primack, a professor of physics at the University of California Santa Cruz, has done foundational research in cosmology. He and his team use some of the world's biggest supercomputers to simulate the evolution of the universe, and they compare the results with observational data. He has recently chaired the Forum on Physics and Society of the American Physical Society, as well as the Committee on Science, Ethics, and Religion of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He is a coauthor of *Advice and Dissent: Scientists in the Political Arena*.

Nancy Ellen Abrams is a lawyer, writer, and former Fulbright scholar, with a long-term interest in the history, philosophy, and politics of science. While working on the staff of the U.S. Congress, she co-created a novel method by which government agencies can make wise policy decisions in cases involving scientific uncertainty, and she has consulted on this for the Swedish government, several state governments, and various corporations. Her articles have appeared in journals, magazines, and books. She has also released three albums of her songs and performed in eighteen countries.

For a decade, Primack and Abrams have been co-teaching a course at the University of California Santa Cruz called "Cosmology and Culture," from which this book developed. They are married and have a daughter.

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"What is remarkable, indeed unique, about this book is that it tells the story of the cosmos, tells it with the authority of those who have ingeniously figured it out, tells it with the clear (and successful) intent of wanting us to understand. And in telling connects matters of cosmic significance with the environment and the fate of life on planet earth."

– Roald Hoffmann, Nobel prize-winning chemist "Joel Primack is one of the pioneers in the development of modern ideas of cosmic evolution. He combines his scientific distinction with a long-standing concern and involvement with societal issues. These qualities, allied with his skill as an expositor, have made him superbly qualified to write with Nancy Abrams a book that presents an original synthesis and distinctive perspective on humanity's place in the cosmos."

> (Lord) Martin Rees, Astronomer Royal of Great Britain and President of the Royal Society

"Now that science has established the first well-tested cosmology in the history of humankind, it is crucial that the main parameters of this world picture be communicated to society as a whole in an accessible manner. Primack and Abrams use both science and art to communicate the relevance of the new cosmology to human ethical and spiritual concerns."

Philip Clayton, Claremont School of Theology

"The reality maps provided by traditional religions and traditional political ideas no longer fit our world, and the confusion and violence that result from trying to live by clashing images in a single global culture are only getting worse. Nothing could be more important than to break out and discover our true potential and thus to renew our traditions and make them relevant to our emerging cosmic view. Nancy Abrams and Joel Primack are performing a great service by revealing that it is possible to interpret the astounding truths coming out of cosmology as being about ourselves – as in fact they must be."

 Rabbi Zalman Schacter-Shalomi, founder of the Aleph Alliance for Jewish Renewal

"Primack and Abrams have the knack of true storytelling, conveying the romance of cosmology without compromising scientific accuracy and balance. This is an inspirational journey through a wonderland, from the cosmic origin to a destiny limited only by our imagination. A delight to read!"

 Paul Davies, cosmologist, author of *The Mind of God* and 25 other books A world-renowned cosmologist and an innovative writer on the history and philosophy of science present a new, scientifically supported understanding of the universe, one that profoundly changes our relationship to the cosmos.

For thousands of years, humans thought of themselves as central to the universe and created symbols and myths to make sense of the world and their special place in it. When Copernicus and Galileo shattered the view of Earth as the center of the universe, we turned away from the intuitive symbols that had sustained our ancestors, and for the past four hundred years we have seen ourselves as adrift, living on an inconsequential rock in an endless expanse of space. But recent discoveries in astronomy, physics, and cosmology have uncovered an astonishing truth: Humans actually are central to the universe in profound and important ways that derive directly from science – ways that Copernicus and Galileo could never have imagined.

In this strikingly original book, Joel R. Primack and Nancy Ellen Abrams argue that, for the first time in human history, a scientific theory of the universe as a whole is emerging – a theory that explains how the universe operates, what it's made of, where it came from, and how it's evolving. Drawing from the latest discoveries and ideas in astrophysics and cosmology, Primack and Abrams show how we are indeed central to the universe and what this might mean for our culture and our personal lives. The result is revolutionary: a science-based cosmology that allows us to understand the universe as a whole and our extraordinary place in it. We are the first generation, the authors explain, capable of grasping what the nature of the universe may imply about Earth – and how this knowledge can be used to protect the long-term future of our planet.

Primack is one of the world's leading cosmologists and an originator and developer of the theory of Cold Dark Matter, now accepted as the standard theory of the structure and evolution of the universe, while Abrams is a gifted writer who expresses the life-changing significance of these cosmic discoveries. They have written a book that requires from us no prior scientific knowledge and that satisfies our fundamental need for meaning in our world and in our lives. Lyrical and readable, yet fact-based and rigorous, *The View from the Center of the Universe* is a fascinating exploration for all of us who have ever wondered how we fit into the universe.