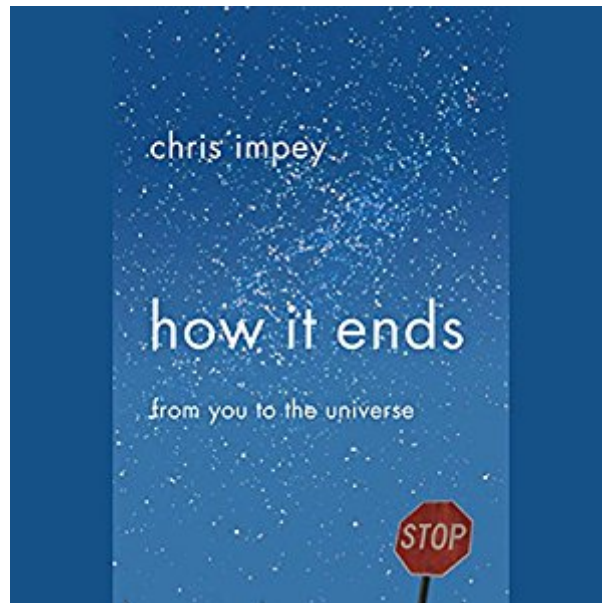




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# How It Ends: From You To The Universe



## Synopsis

The fascinating science behind the eventual end to everything - from the individual to all existence. Although we may try to keep it tucked at the back of our minds, most of us are aware of our own mortality. But few among us know what science, with the help of insights yielded from groundbreaking new research, has to say about death on a larger scale. Enter astronomer Chris Impey, who chronicles the death of the whole shebang: individual, species, biosphere, Earth, Sun, Milky Way, and, finally, the entire universe. With a healthy dose of humor, *How It Ends* illuminates everything from the technologies of human life extension and the evolutionary arms race between microbes and men to the inescapable dimming of the sun and the ultimate "big rip", giving us a rare glimpse into a universe without us.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"How it Ends" is one of those books that is difficult to put down once started. It is well-written, informative, and tells a great story. It is about endings -- our personal ending, the end of societies, of mankind, of animals and life on Earth, of the Earth itself, of the Solar System, the Milky Way galaxy, and finally of the universe itself. The book also addresses several ancillary issues, such as of our place in the galaxy and universe. Are we unique? Is intelligent life in the galaxy or universe special, or is it likely that intelligent life is common? Impey's logic and arguments are both interesting and rather convincing. What impresses me most about this book is the author's range of knowledge about the subjects being discussed, and his ability to impart it to the reader in an interesting and

thoughtful manner. He brings his own reflections and experiences into the discussion, which only adds to the import of the book. There is much to reflect on while reading "How it Ends", and I recommend it to anyone who is interested in pondering the question, what's it all about?

It's awesome, I've always been fascinated by death and this book is incredibly interesting, I found myself submerged in it way too often

If you were ever curious to get an idea of how everything ends. This is THE BOOK. The author takes us through the end of human life on earth; then all life; then the end of our planet; then the end of our solar system; then the end of our galaxy; the end of our universe is next and finally the end of time, space and everything else. A great view of the distant future.

excellent!

The book was in great condition, arrived on time, and was as interesting as stated in all the reviews. Would definitely consider future purchases from this seller.

It's rather scary to think that everything we understand in reality will some day end. Chris Impey demonstrates how everything in the universe will eventually wind itself down and end with an intense examination of everything that matters. He essentially proposes that everything is born, grows to maturity, withers and dies. Everything from living things to inanimate objects, like space rocks, planets, stars, solar systems and galaxies, eventually pass away. In effect, the whole shebang will end. Ironically, Chris Impey's *How It Ends* is really a quest to discover where we are going. Impey does this consistently by exploring the lives of larger structures such as the Fate of species, Beyond Natural Selection, The Web of Life, Threats to the Biosphere, Living in the Solar System, the Sun's Demise, Our Galactic Habitat and finally, How the Universe Ends. We are immediately shaken by the reality that Impey bestows through his work. Yet, our eyes are opened to the vague concerns we all foster in the back of our minds. Of course, the amount of time involved for nature to carry out her demise is daunting to comprehend. But scientists are grappling with ever more unsettling ideas than things phasing out. Impey concludes that even though life may seem distressing, it's still great to know that we are alive.

Trying to discover what happened just before or just after the farthest most time point for which we

just discovered what might have happened (past) or is going to happen (future) is an endless and increasingly speculative game. There are good theories on what may have happened at the Big Bang or even before; the author covered the events of the past in the book titled *How It Began*. Out here, he tries to sketch the future. What makes the book particularly interesting is its non-cosmological first part. The first section on the decay of any living being and individual mortality is fascinating. The book could have devoted some more space speculating whether/how in a 1000 or so years there could be human beings living hundreds of years (the topic of elongation of our lives and our existence in other forms - like digital data - is covered but rather too briefly). The sections that follow on the near future (by the cosmic standards) involve myriads of ways how our specie, the animal life on the planet and even the earth itself could go extinct. The biosphere discussions provide a more comprehensive makeover to the book before the author slips into his own area of expertise: cosmology. While the explanations/summaries are lucid and the flow is engaging, the discussions on the demise of the sun, stars, galaxies and even the universe are unlikely to add anything new to anyone who has read a handful of books on the cosmic theories. For the readers coming across the topics for the first time, the discussions of the multitudes of highly involved and complex topics could appear too perfunctory and rapid. As the author tries to describe the current scientific conjectures of the unknowable eventuality, the reader could be pardoned to feel that the lines between the theological and scientific beliefs are getting blurred. In fact, the beginning and the end increasingly look almost identical. It is a wonder that the author still mostly skips the guesses on the biggest question "why all the fuss" after unconsciously highlighting the futility of it all throughout!

Impey's book is full of, almost too much, information. I have read a great deal of popular cosmology, but have never encountered such a mass of ideas, prognoses, and (sometimes difficult) concepts. It has to be said that focussed mental effort is needed to comprehend Impey, but also that the book is perhaps a uniquely informative account for non-experts of the state and history of our universe. Anyone who is (a) smart and (b) intellectually curious should certainly attempt it. There is surely no more accessible and authoritative account for the lay person of how the universe came to be what it is. Some people may of course prefer the simpler story in *Genesis*. INVICTUS

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