



# Origins: The Scientific Story of Creation

By Jim Baggott

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What is life? Where do we come from and how did we evolve? What is the universe and how was it formed? What is the nature of the material world? How does it work? How and why do we think? What does it mean to be human? How do we know?

There are many different versions of our creation story. This book tells the version according to modern science. It is a unique account, starting at the Big Bang and traveling right up to the emergence of humans as conscious intelligent beings, 13.8 billion years later. Chapter by chapter, it sets out the current state of scientific knowledge: the origins of space and time; energy, mass, and light; galaxies, stars, and our sun; the habitable earth, and complex life itself. Drawing together the physical and biological sciences, Baggott recounts what we currently know of our history, highlighting the questions science has yet to answer.

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## Origins: The Scientific Story of Creation By Jim Baggott Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #367850 in Books
- Published on: 2015-10-08
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 6.20" h x 1.00" w x 9.40" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 352 pages

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

"The collective mind of humanity has made extraordinary progress in its quest to understand how the current richness of the physical world has emerged, and Baggott with his characteristic lucidity and erudition, has provided an enthralling account of this wonderful and still unfolding intellectual journey." --Peter Atkins, Fellow of Lincoln College, University of Oxford

"Jim Baggott's *Origins*... recount[s] the greatest story ever told: the evolution of the Universe since the Big Bang. This rich crossdisciplinary tale reminds us that astronomy, physics, chemistry, geoscience, biology and neuro science are interconnected. Baggott takes the reader on a linear, 13.8-billion-year journey. His ... treatment abounds with excellent visuals. At its best, *Origins* reminds me of Richard Holmes's marvellous *The Age of Wonder* ... Sweeping scope and detailed description ... [Baggott] reminds us that big questions remain in this most wonderful scientific adventure." --Michael S. Turner, *Nature*

"Baggott's style of writing, with comments interspersed, makes reading a pleasure, even for difficult material." --CHOICE

#### About the Author

**Jim Baggott** is a freelance science writer. He was a lecturer in chemistry at the University of Reading but left to work with Shell International Petroleum Company and then as an independent business consultant and trainer. His many books include *Higgs: The Invention and Discovery of the 'God Particle'* (OUP, 2012), *A Quantum Story: A History in 40 Moments* (OUP, 2011) and *A Beginner's Guide to Reality* (Penguin, 2005).

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