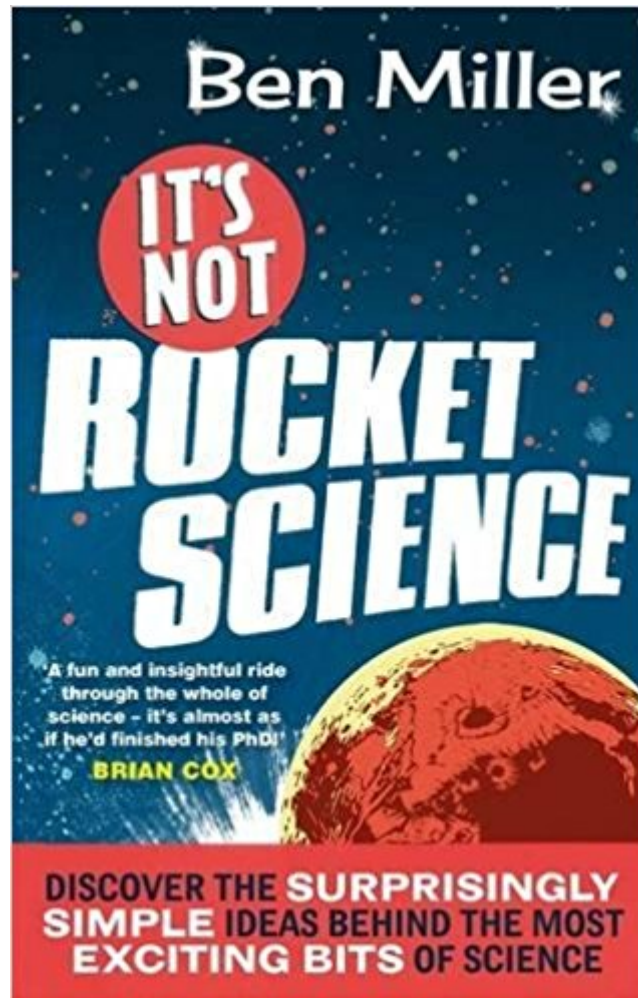




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It's Not Rocket Science



Synopsis

The Top Ten Bestseller Black holes. DNA. The Large Hadron Collider. Ever had that sneaking feeling that you are missing out on some truly spectacular science? You do? Well, fear not, for help is at hand. Ben Miller was working on his Physics PhD at Cambridge when he accidentally became a comedian. But first love runs deep, and he has returned to his roots to share with you all his favourite bits of science. This is the stuff you really need to know, not only because it matters but because it will quite simply amaze and delight you. 'Let me show you another, perhaps less familiar side of Science; her beauty, her seductiveness and her passion. And let's do it quickly, while Maths isn't looking'

Ben Miller 'This book makes climate change actually seem interesting. Not just important - it's obviously important - but interesting. As a result I bought lots of other books about climate change, something I now regret'

David Mitchell Ben Miller is, like you, a mutant ape living through an Ice Age on a ball of molten iron, orbiting a supermassive black hole. He is also an actor, comedian and approximately one half of Armstrong & Miller. He's presented a BBC Horizon documentary on temperature and a Radio 4 series about the history of particle physics, and has written a science column for The Times. He is slowly coming to terms with the idea that he may never be an astronaut.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Ben Miller has made a successful career out of concealing his intellect, but in this book he fails to obscure his scientific credentials beautifully. It's a fun and insightful ride through the whole of science - it's almost as if he'd finished his PhD!

This book makes climate change actually seem

interesting. Not just important - it's obviously important - but interesting. As a result I bought lots of other books about climate change, something I now regret

Ben Miller studied physics at Cambridge and was working on his PhD when he left to pursue a career in comedy. He is now half of Britain's most popular TV comedy duo, Armstrong & Miller, and a successful actor, but has always maintained a passionate interest in science.

...you would have learned a lot of this stuff in school. Science matters, but it can be a forbiddingly opaque subject. Topics like climate change, space exploration, personal robotics, genetic engineering, and technical advancements that are fundamentally changing our notions of privacy and civil rights, law, and our political systems make it ever more critical that we all have a better understanding of what science is and how it works. In this funny, accurate, engaging, and informative little book, Ben Miller breaks down a number of important science topics and makes them approachable for reasonably literate people who endured the general-ed science requirement without learning much. It will not make you an expert on anything, but it will tell you the stuff an educated citizen should know and you'll know enough to intelligently choose further resources and ask questions on the topics that most pique your interest.

Very fun read and solid science, just 2 notes: His estimates on the Drake equation tell us Mars 100% has had life. Also I understand stars twinkle from our atmosphere, rather than interstellar medium. But the Drake equation estimate was enlightening, giving 7 alien civilizations in our galaxy waiting for a call, though an estimate of none in our galaxy is more reasonable to me.

Fairly engaging so far, but chatty in a sort of 'assuming reader-anxiety'-way. Stops just shy of arrogance, so still readable, but the author spends more time telling the reader that things are mind-blowing, when he could maybe just blow our minds by really getting into what he's been talking around. Maybe he'll get there. If he does, I'll come back and say so. I promise.

Covers the most interesting bits of science with a sense of humor. Everything from atom smashers to how to bake a cake like a real scientist, to watching out for asteroids. Ben Miller really likes science and it comes through in his writing. (Amazing how fun science is when you don't have to study for a test on Monday.)

This author is the best for science fun! He was wonderful to watch as the actor/comedian and to learn about his physics studies was a real bonus! I haven't finished this yet, but look forward to reading every day!

I like Ben Miller as an actor in Death in Paradise, but a writer of serious books he's not. He did, however, teach me a lot of stuff I didn't know before I read his book.

A great concept book to help explain some of the more advanced topics of physics. It can be a little hard to follow if you only read a few sections at a time, it is best to read the whole chapter so all the info is fresh in your mind. Ben Miller does a great job making it fun and keeps your interests.

Miller's love of science, and his appreciation for early teachers who made math and science fun, shine through this book. Engaging and humorous explanations are given in terms everyone can understand.

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