



From Eros to Gaia

By Freeman Dyson

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The author of *Disturbing the Universe* presents a selection of essays that include discussions of his early fascination with science and space, his contemporary analyses of the politics of ""smart"" weapons, and more.

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From Eros to Gaia By Freeman Dyson Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #2177953 in Books
- Published on: 1992-05-26
- Released on: 1992-05-26
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.25" h x 6.00" w x 1.50" l,
- Binding: Hardcover

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Migration to other planets as a means to ensure human survival . . . The storage of garbage and nuclear wastes in outer space . . . An international reforestation program to restore climatic equilibrium. These are some of the proposals set forth by Dyson (*Disturbing the Universe*) in a challenging collection of essays, lectures and reviews spanning six decades. Urging the abolition of sea-launched cruise missiles, Dyson credits Russian leaders with sincerity in their desire for drastic disarmament. He pens cautionary tales illustrating the human frailties of scientists, and condemns as "bad scientifically" the Supercolliding Superconductor, a proposed \$8 billion machine for high-energy physics research. In a sketch written at the age of nine, he depicts an astronomer tracking Eros, a minor planet that revolves 180 million miles from the Sun. Along with articles on quantum field theory and the mystery of unaccounted-for carbon in the biosphere, there are tributes to Richard Feynman and Paul Dirac, a travel sketch on Armenia and Dyson's proposed 60-year program for space science, including manned missions to Mars.

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From Library Journal

Thirty-five essays, book reviews, lectures, and even a science fiction short story written at age ten make up this collection spanning Dyson's career as writer and physicist. "Instead of history, I give you anecdotes. Instead of analysis, I give you opinions," writes Dyson in the essay "Strategic Bombing in World War 2 and Today: Has Anything Changed?" This aptly describes the whole collection. The pieces, which date from the 1950s to 1990, are reprinted from books and articles, and they are presented with little revision or updating. Readers will find some duplication in subject matter. Recurring themes include Dyson's opinion that the trend toward "big science" is squeezing out worthy, cost-effective, smaller-scale projects in physics, astronomy, and space exploration; that intellectual mavericks make more stimulating creative colleagues than many of the Ph.D.'s cranked out by academia; and that science must not lose its connection with humanity and the arts. Appropriate for public libraries. Previewed in Prepub Alert, LJ 12/91 . -- Laurie Tynan, Montgomery Cty.

Norristown P.L., Pa.

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From Kirkus Reviews

Dyson (Physics/Princeton's Institute for Advanced Studies; *Weapons and Hope*, 1984, etc.) cleans house with this stimulating collection of 35 articles, lectures, and essays on science and the future of humanity--less focused, by necessity, than his earlier works, but with something to satisfy every Dyson fan. The author's love of both science and literature has flourished during his long career--as evidenced by these compelling discussions of such wide-ranging topics as the underlying forces that guide scientific research; the future of physics; science education for children and adults; the ritualization of nuclear defense; the effects of increased globalization on human evolution; the interactive relationship between pollution and vegetation; and the value and potential of the emerging Gaia philosophy. Using as bookends his own first attempt at science fiction at the age of nine (inspired by the close approach near Earth in 1931 of the asteroid Eros), and a series of lectures on the ``ecology" of scientific projects, Dyson re-creates bits and pieces of a six-decades-long train of thought on many of the important scientific discoveries of the 20th century; how the sort of research that leads to such discoveries is best encouraged; and how scientific breakthroughs can best benefit humanity. Much else is tossed in, from more technical articles written for *Scientific American* to book reviews, personal recollections, and predictions for the future. Nevertheless, no matter what the topic, Dyson's passion for humanity, his guarded hopes for the future, and his belief in the saving grace of the

scientific pursuit of truth illuminate his writing. Together, these essays deliver the intellectual and moral punch that Dyson's readers expect, and offer an edifying wrap-up of an exceptional scientific and literary career. -- *Copyright ©1992, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Leticia Hodes:

This From Eros to Gaia book is absolutely not ordinary book, you have after that it the world is in your hands. The benefit you get by reading this book will be information inside this guide incredible fresh, you will get details which is getting deeper anyone read a lot of information you will get. That From Eros to Gaia without we recognize teach the one who looking at it become critical in imagining and analyzing. Don't possibly be worry From Eros to Gaia can bring once you are and not make your bag space or bookshelves' grow to be full because you can have it within your lovely laptop even mobile phone. This From Eros to Gaia having great arrangement in word and layout, so you will not sense uninterested in reading.

Kayla Wilson:

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