

# What a Wonderful World: One Man's Attempt to Explain the Big Stuff

By Marcus Chown



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With wit, colour and clarity, *What A Wonderful World* quickly and painlessly brings us up to speed on how the world of the 21st century works. From economics to physics and biology to philosophy, Marcus Chown explains the complex forces that shape our universe.

Why do we breathe? What is money? How does the brain work? Why did life invent sex? Does time really exist? How does capitalism work - *or not*, as the case may be? Where do mountains come from? How do computers work? How did humans get to dominate the Earth? Why is there *something* rather than *nothing*?

In *What a Wonderful World*, Marcus Chown, bestselling author of *Quantum Theory Cannot Hurt You* and the *Solar System* app, uses his vast scientific knowledge and deep understanding of extremely complex processes to answer simple questions about the workings of our everyday lives. Lucid, witty and hugely entertaining, it explains the basics of our essential existence, stopping along the way to show us why the Atlantic is widening by a thumbs' length each year, how money permits trade to time travel why the crucial advantage humans had over Neanderthals was sewing and why we are all living in a giant hologram.

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#### What a Wonderful World: One Man's Attempt to Explain the Big Stuff By Marcus Chown Bibliography

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#### **Editorial Review**

#### About the Author

Formerly a radio astronomer at the California Institute of Technology, MARCUS CHOWN is now the cosmology consultant for "New" "Scientist "and the author of many books on science, including "The Matchbox That Ate a Forty-Ton Truck".

Clive Mantle s theater work includes "Coming Clean", "A Streetcar Named Desire", and "Educating Rita". He has been nominated for an Olivier Award and, for his performance as Lennie in "Of Mice and Men", he was joint Best Newcomer in the Plays and Players Awards. He has also appeared in many films, including "Alien 3" and "White Hunter, Black Heart".

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