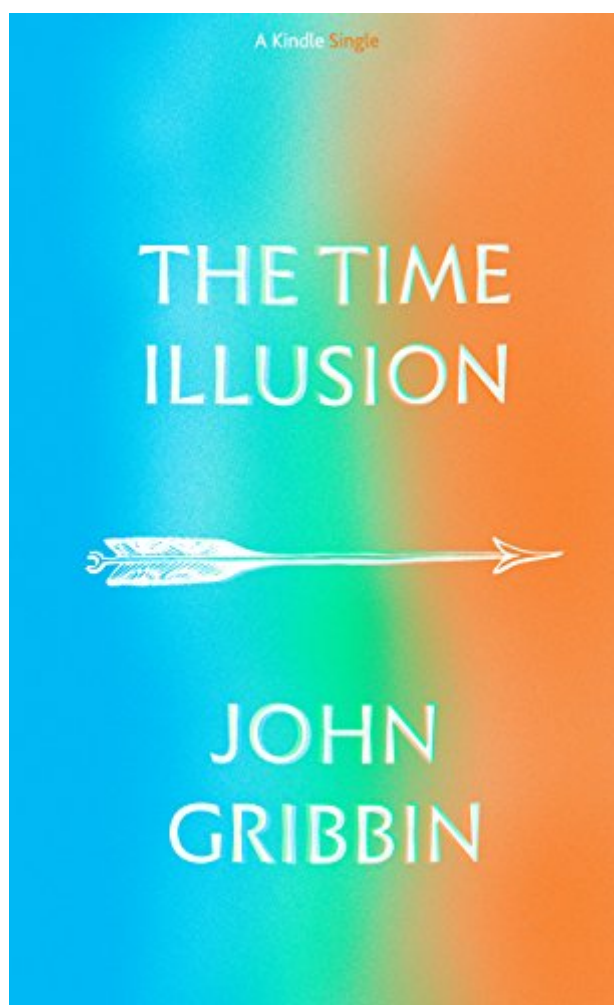


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The Time Illusion (Kindle Single)



Synopsis

Albert Einstein said "the distinction between past, present, and future is only a stubbornly persistent illusion". So, why do we perceive a flow of time? Is the future "already there", and is the past "still there", even though we are only aware of a single moment of time? Drawing on the latest ideas from both relativity and quantum theory, award-winning science writer John Gribbin (In Search of Schrödinger's Cat) addresses the questions that have baffled philosophers since antiquity and Zeno's arrow paradox. Along the way, we find that in the quantum world it is literally true that a watched pot never boils, and learn how physicists have come to terms with the idea of the four-dimensional block universe as an explanation of the distinction between past, present and future. Why do eggs break when we drop them, but never unbreak? The Universe as we know it began in a Big Bang, which in some sense marks the beginning of time. Is it possible that we need to invoke the Big Bang to explain why we never see unbroken eggs? This idea glories in the name "the past hypothesis", but many physicists regard it as no more than an attempt to sweep the problem of the arrow of time under the rug. Read The Time Illusion and see if you agree!

Book Information

File Size: 1359 KB

Print Length: 35 pages

Simultaneous Device Usage: Unlimited

Publication Date: July 31, 2016

Sold by: Amazon Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B01JGM5T4E

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #36,198 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #4 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Science > Physics > Time #5 in Kindle Store > Kindle Short Reads > One hour (33-43 pages) > Science & Math #7 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Science > Physics > Relativity

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