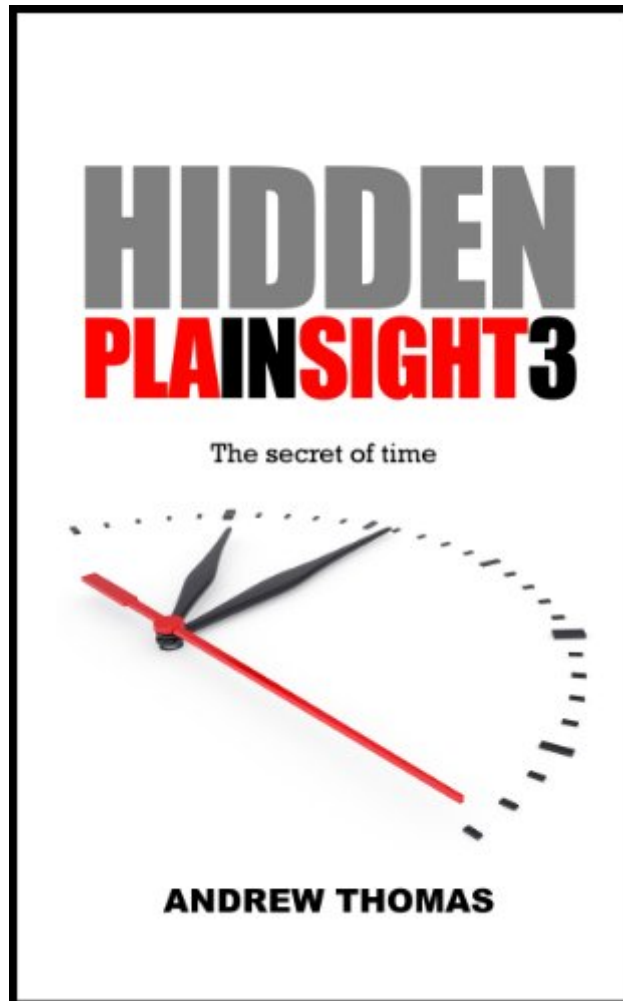


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Hidden In Plain Sight 3: The Secret Of Time



Synopsis

You never knew theoretical physics could be so simple! What is time? Why does time exist? Why can't we remember the future? From Aristotle to Einstein, the mystery of time has puzzled philosophers and physicists down the ages. Enjoy a fascinating detective story to solve the mystery of time - but prepare to be amazed by the twist at the end of the tale!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Isaac Asimov's short story "The Dead Past" should be mandatory reading for anyone considering the implications of the "block universe" hypothesis so strongly championed in this book. I think this story is one of the most important in all of sci-fi, for reasons I will explain later. It's quite short and easily available free on the web, so I won't retell it here. Asimov was aware of an implication of this model (whether he was thinking of the model explicitly, I don't know) that the proponents of the model are unaware of or choose to ignore - take your pick. In fact, in this book Dr Thomas not only champions the model but tries to convince readers that it "must" *logically* be so... and then goes even further: in the section "How to live in a blockuniverse", he promotes this model as something "reassuring" and that we "should feel relieved and empowered" by it. Asimov's story, on the contrary, makes an equally strong case that this model should fill us with horror. The "block spacetime" hypothesis is inherently unfalsifiable, and therefore is suspect as a scientific theory. The

contrary hypothesis - the "null hypothesis" in statistical research - that "spacetime" as a block does *not* exist, is falsifiable because an experiment may be possible to show - empirically - that it does. Such an experiment would, by definition, have to "see" - in some sense of the word, at least - the nature of the spacetime outside of the "slice" that is our normal experience. The success of such an experiment must - by its very nature - imply the *in principle* possibility of the development of technology to "view" the past, in the way that Asimov explores.

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