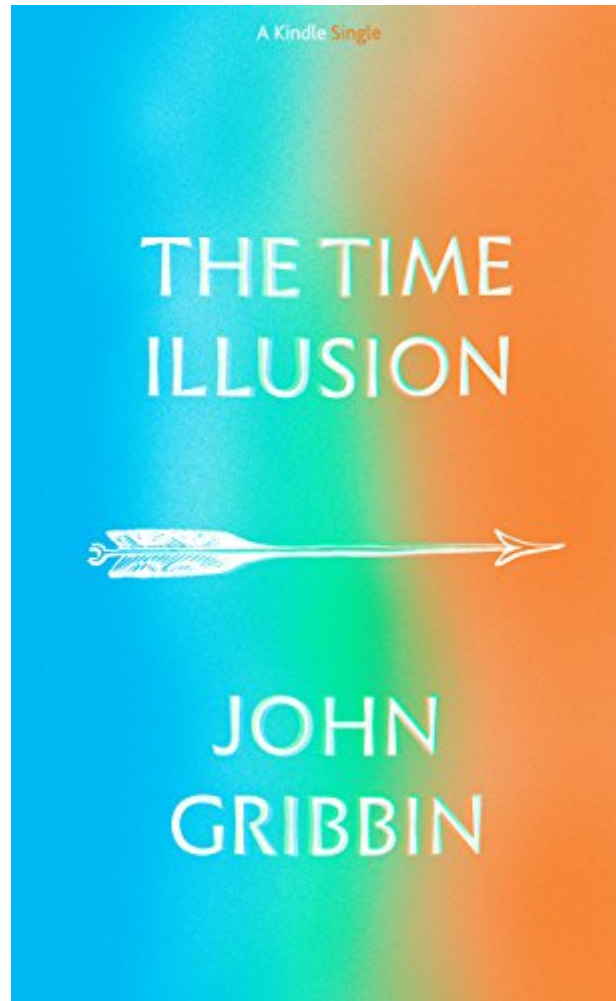




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The Time Illusion (Kindle Single)



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

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Customer Reviews

Gribbin is spectacular at explaining recondite matters in a way that anyone can understand. He gets into some heady ideas about the physics of time without requiring a single equation. As entertaining as it is enlightening, this is first-rate science writing.

John did a great job explaining The Time Illusion in simple terms. I do not have the math skills beyond the basics but am interested in the concepts. However, I was disappointed that it was so short. I want to learn more!

John Gribbin leads the lay reader through a philosophical discussion of time and describes the block universe along with other theories and even recommends a science fiction book that discusses the concept of time. There is enough reference material for those with the knowledge and ability to search more in depth. The main audience for the book is the lay person. Reading it gives the reader a history of the research, problems encountered, and an appreciation for the implications of the dual nature of entities as both wave and particle. Those who wish to become scientists and engineers will have to study their college textbooks and do the actual experiments. The book is a good introduction to the subject matter and is good for general knowledge.

John Gribbin is my absolute favourite popular science writer (among a large group of close competitors). This is an excellent book. Short, lucid, and wonderfully thought-provoking. I'd write more, but I'm not sure I have enough time. :-)

A short but very interesting presentation. Time and conscious becoming two of my favorite subjects and this little book contained both.

A genuinely straight forward, clear and concise explanation of the basic concepts of quantum physics and their relationship to our common concept of "time". Written for the non-physics oriented reader.

Good but not up to the high standards Gribbin set years ago. The topic is a large one, deserving of more in-depth survey, rather than focusing on a few recent novel ideas and claims.

Speculative, thought provoking, a good read. Try it. You may find it changes the way you think

about time the concept of time.

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