



## Comet

*Carl Sagan , Ann Druyan*

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**Comet** Carl Sagan , Ann Druyan

WHAT ARE THESE GRACEFUL VISITORS TO OUR SKIES? WE NOW KNOW THAT THEY BRING BOTH LIFE AND DEATH AND TEACH US ABOUT OUR ORIGINS.

Comet begins with a breathtaking journey through space astride a comet. Pulitzer Prize-winning astronomer Carl Sagan, author of *Cosmos* and *Contact*, and writer Ann Druyan explore the origin, nature, and future of comets, and the exotic myths and portents attached to them. The authors show how comets have spurred some of the great discoveries in the history of science and raise intriguing questions about these brilliant visitors from the interstellar dark.

Were the fates of the dinosaurs and the origins of humans tied to the wanderings of a comet? Are comets the building blocks from which worlds are formed?

Lavishly illustrated with photographs and specially commissioned full-color paintings, *Comet* is an enthralling adventure, indispensable for anyone who has ever gazed up at the heavens and wondered why.

"SIMPLY THE BEST."

\*The Times of London

"FASCINATING, EVOCATIVE, INSPIRING."

\*The Washington Post

"COMET HUMANIZES SCIENCE. A BEAUTIFUL, INTERESTING BOOK."

\*United Press International

"MASTERFUL . . . SCIENCE, POETRY, AND IMAGINATION."

\*The Atlanta Journal & Constitution

## Comet Details

Date : Published February 25th 1997 by Ballantine Books (first published January 1st 1985)

ISBN : 9780345412225

Author : Carl Sagan , Ann Druyan

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# From Reader Review Comet for online ebook

## Tom Menke says

everything saga wrote was worth reading

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## Madyson Carter says

Carl Sagan's purpose in writing this book is to inform people about comets, the history of their observations, the people who made a huge impact on our understanding of comets, where they come from, what they're made of, etc. The theme of course is comets. The style of this book is an exposition because it is an explanation and analysis of comets to bring some clarity and understanding on comets. In my opinion it was very good. What I liked is that it didn't just spew scientific unorganized nonsense at you and that it explored the history and future of the comet and our observations of them. What I didn't like is that in some of the chapters it started to talk about how the universe was made and for that reason I completely skipped over some chapters because they went against my beliefs. If I could change anything I would take out the chapters that talked about how the universe was made. It is not like any book I've read. I give this book 4 out of 5 stars and I must warn you that since this book was published in 1985 some of the information is outdated.

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## ade\_reads says

Buku ini membahas segala sesuatu tentang salah satu benda langit yang disebut juga bintang berekor, komet. Mulai dari awal diketahui keberadaannya, sejarah, asal-usul proses pembentukannya, mitologi, dan sifat-sifatnya secara ilmiah, juga peran, persepsi dan perubahan pemahaman manusia terhadap komet. Ditulis dan pertama kali diterbitkan pada tahun 1985, sebagian besar bahasan pada buku ini masih cukup relevan untuk dibaca saat ini. Karena saya merasa tidak punya dasar dan pemahaman astronomi yang lebih mendalam ?, saya tidak tahu persis bagian-bagian mana yang benar-benar sudah tidak relevan dengan perkembangan ilmu astronomi saat ini

Recommended to astronomy lover and Sagan fans!

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## Kate says

This could have been titled "Comet Halley" and I would have been perfectly fine with that. I want to live to see Comet Halley in 2061 since I had recently been born when it passed by in 1985-86. The amount of information pertaining to Edmond Halley and his infamous comet filled me with gratitude and now I know where the info for the most recent Cosmos television series came from. Near the end of the book, Sagan makes mention of future journeys into "trans-Plutonian" space and of flying a craft to a comet, both of which have recently occurred, about 30 years from the time of publication. I'm sure there is plenty of outdated information in this book but it's exciting to me to be able to live through it and learn where science has been, where it's going etc...

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## **Glyn Longden says**

Rating: 6.5/10. The volume I read was not the revised version but the original which was released in 1985 just BEFORE Halley's Comet. Sagan obviously was trying to cash in on the interest in the comet. The problem with reading science books which are more than 20 years old is that much of the material is dated, incorrect, speculation, or irrelevant. So while Sagan offers much which is interesting there is none of the later research such as the 'Giotto' mission or the comet Shumaker-Levy which crashed into Jupiter. I'm not sure whether some of his theories were either proved or not proved....for example, the notion that extinctions occur on Earth roughly every 30 million years is caused by the 'bobbing' of the sun through the plane of the galaxy as it revolves around its centre. I did enjoy the book, and, yes, it does have lots of pictures and photos. However, as always happens when I read books like this I realize it is time to find a modern, up-to-date, latest theories text.

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## **Useresu says**

I have to admit, if Cosmos was a mainstream and overall view of our universe and is as human species, each subsequent book I read from Sagan simply feels like an uncut version of one of the chapters of Cosmos. This one in particular is about Comets and you will learn everything- the history, the myth, the composition, the physics, the chemistry, the theory, the journeys now and and the future. It's a magnificent story written in typical Sagan and Druyan way. So if you're new to it - read Cosmos first. If you're not - why are you reading this review? Just get on with it!

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## **Steve Van Slyke says**

It's hard to imagine that discovery of the Kuiper Belt, the end of the Soviet Union, the identification of the Chicxulub Crater as that of the comet or asteroid that caused the K-T extinction, and the arrival of Comet Hale-Bopp, were all events unknown to the authors at the time of their writing.

Had they known about these events it is certain they would have had a large impact (no pun) on how they constructed much of the book, at least the latter parts of it.

Still, much of the book is well worthwhile even to today's reader since a large part of it deals with the history of comets and their discoverer's. And Carl Sagan's phraseology rings so true at times it's almost as if you could hear him narrating it out loud.

The photos and diagrams are also well worth it.

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## **Han says**

I love the last two chapters which as every other books of Carl Sagan left me with something to ponder and reflect. I enjoyed the stories in the first few chapters especially the work of Halley. There are many new

things in the middle chapters that I didn't know in details so I like the fact that I learnt new things here and there but some sections are a bit long and dry. I have stopped in the middle for a few months and resumed reading it when I ran out of book to read. I'm glad I finished it since there are interesting things amidst the dry information until the end.

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## **Last Ranger says**

Mysterious Traveler:

Once upon a time, the young Albert Einstein tried to imagine what it would be like to ride on a beam of light and what the universe would look like to that observer. Writing in his 1985 book, *Comet*, author Carl Sagan takes the reader on another imaginary journey. This time the observer is riding aboard a wayward comet traveling from the Solar System's outer fringe, around the sun and back into deep space again, giving the reader a birds eye view of what you would see on such a trip. Who knows where such "flights of fancy" can lead? The former; to a paradigm changing theory. And the latter; to an in depth look at a strange visitor from the depths of space. Part science, part history and, in the original hard-bound edition, a generous helping of classical and new art work. While the Kindle edition has the charts, graphs and many black & white illustrations the beautiful color paintings are either missing or rendered in B&W. While this does not diminish Sagan's text in any way, it would have been a nice addition to the overall reading experience. You have to wonder what the publishers were thinking when they OK'd this treatment of both *Cosmos* and *Comet* for e-reader release. The text itself is stunning, Sagan's knowledge seems unlimited and his writing skills were never better. This edition is the 1997 update by co-author Ann Druyan to include any new findings (to that point) and theories on comets and astronomy but you may want to use this book as a jumping off point to more recent writings. The history of comets and how they interacted with human society is fascinating and Sagan takes you back to the beginning, to our earliest records of comet sightings. What are comets made of? How are they formed? Follow the birth and life of our Mysterious Traveler on it's journey through the Solar System. The author covers the mechanics of how their orbits are created and the risk that comets may pose to our planet. If a large object, comet or meteor, ever struck the Earth it could have a devastating effect on our environment and all life, including humans. Has this ever happened? What is the connection between comets and meteorites? Sagan covers all this and more in this classic science book. The book closes with a section of extreme speculation and philosophy that the author offers up for your consideration, take it for what you will, just keep an open mind. From Sagan's point of view the future has boundless possibilities. Comets may be an unlimited resource of water, minerals and energy that we can mine for use in space-construction or colonization of other planets. All it needs is the courage to take a course of action that will benefit us in the short run and future generations in the long run as well. Whether you're reading *Comet* for the science, history, or just for nostalgic reasons it's a worthwhile read. So buy your ticket and hop aboard the Comet express. There's always room for another observer. I had no technical or formatting problems with this Kindle edition.

Last Ranger

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## **Menglong Youk says**

Being the seventh Carl Sagan's book I've read, "*Comet*" was a book co-written by, of course, the late Great Carl Sagan and Ann Druyan in 1985 before the return of the historical comet Halley. The book offers us a

spectacular ride on the comet from its origins to the point when it gets close to the Sun and heads back to where it comes from. After that, nearly everything you might be curious or might not even imagine to ask about comets will lie on the pages; the histories, myths, the physical appearances, the compositions, impacts, and future influences of these wonderful visitors from the frozen interstellar darkness.

The authors' visions for the future advantages of comets and asteroids for our space exploration raise many intriguing questions to the readers and make them wish that governments would unite for the sake of science, knowledge and the survival of human civilization. Opportunity, money and technology to reach that goal are already within our grasp, but everything else is up to us to decide whether we would waste the money on war or invest them in exploration for our long term benefits.

"Comets may act as the creators, the preservers, and the destroyers of life on Earth," the authors argue, "A surviving dinosaur might have reason to mistrust them, but humans might more appropriately consider the comets in a favorable light—as bringers of the stuff of life to Earth, as ocean-builders, as the agency that removed the competition and made possible the success of our mammalian ancestors, as possible future outposts of our species, and as providers of a timely reminder about large explosions and the climate of the Earth." Comets and asteroids could be extract as raw materials so that we wouldn't need to send them from earth, which would cost hundreds of millions of dollars, they could provide fuels, water and many other organic materials, making the exploration more bearable and reachable.

Yes, the book was written 26 years ago. Despite being revised in 1997, many discoveries related to comets have been discovered and understood since then. Yet, the book cannot be devalued; it can be an informative companion to the study of comet in our modern day.

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### ?????? ?????? says

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### Rob says

Received as a gift many years ago. Disappeared during one move or another; no clue whose shelf it is on today. As I recall, a gorgeous book on par with *Cosmos* though certainly much more focused in its subject matter. As I recall, it has an illustration of the Halley's Comet orbital path in the upper right corner of the odd (even? whichever is the right-side) pages and when you flip through them, you can watch the comet orbit the sun. Brilliant.

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**Mike says**

It is impossible to give any book by Carl Sagan less than five stars.No praise is high enough for his writing.

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**?????? ????? says**

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**Gary Brooks says**

An excellent work by an excellent scientist. like a magical train ride through the entire solar system.

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