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Book Review: The Edge of Infinity: Supermassive Black Holes in the Universe

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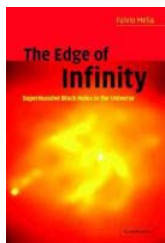
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The edge of infinity : supermassive black holes in the universe



Melia, Fulvio. Cambridge, 2003

148p, 0-521-81405-7 \$30.00

LC Call Number: [QB843](#)

This "big little book of black holes" is the second popular-level book by Melia (Univ. of Arizona, Tucson) on the topic. Here he tells readers that super-massive black holes (a million times the Sun's mass or more) seem to lurk everywhere, and that black holes are not really black, or even permanent. They also play a far greater role in the way the universe has developed than astronomers first suspected. They lurk at the heart of nearly every major galaxy including our own, and they power quasars, the most luminous objects known. Indeed, black holes may have been the very seeds around which the galaxies themselves grew. How a galaxy looks depends on how much the giant black hole at its center gets fed through mergers with other galaxies. Would readers be surprised to learn that our own home galaxy, the Milky Way, is on a collision course with the Andromeda Galaxy? Chapter 4 reveals our fate. Along the way readers will learn a bit about gravitation theory, string theory, and relativity, too. The book is a quick read and a welcome addition to any black hole aficionado's bookshelf.

Summing Up: Highly recommended. General readers; lower- and upper-division undergraduates; two-year technical program students.

Reviewer: [T. D. Oswalt](#), Florida Institute of Technology

Recommendation: Highly recommended

Readership Level: General Readers, Lower-division Undergraduates, Upper-division Undergraduates, Two-Year Technical Program Students

Interdisciplinary Subjects:

Subject: [Science & Technology - Astronautics & Astronomy](#)

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