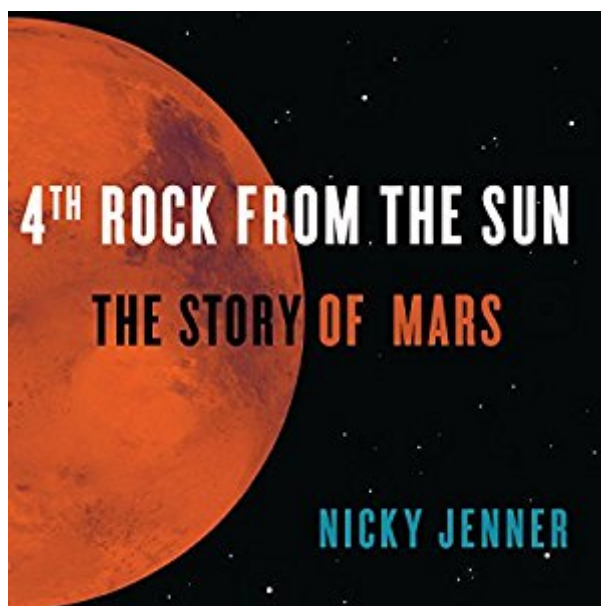


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4th Rock From The Sun: The Story Of Mars



Synopsis

Mars, the red planet, is ingrained in our culture, from David Bowie's extra-terrestrial spiders to Captain Scarlet to War of the Worlds. It has inspired hundreds of authors, scientists and science-fiction writers - but why? What is it about this particular planet that makes it so intriguing? Ancient mythologies defined Mars as a violent harbinger of war, star-gazers puzzled over its peculiar motion, and astrologers defined human personalities by its position and bizarre dance through the sky. And in more recent times, astronomers have explored Mars and its alien characteristics: its dusty red hue, its small moons, its atmosphere, how the planet formed and its mysterious past. Images sent back from various satellites showed startling faces, canals, and pyramids across its surface. Were there Martians, and were they civilised, intelligent, beings? Science-fact is now catching up with science fiction. Robot vehicles have trundled across the planet's surface, beaming back beautiful views of its rust-orange surface, and testing soil and atmosphere to get clues on how the planet has evolved, and whether it supported (or supports) life. There are many more Mars missions planned over the next decade. And while little green Martians are now firmly the preserve of literature, there is growing evidence that the now arid, frozen planet was once warm, wet, and possibly thronging with microbial life. And one day soon humans will set foot on the red planet. What are the challenges involved, and how are we preparing for them? Is there a long-term future for humans on Mars? Nicky Jenner's 4th Rock from the Sun reviews Mars in its entirety - its nature, attributes, and impact on third Rock-culture, its environmental science and geology, and its potential as a human colony - everything you need to know about the Red Planet (and quite a few things you don't).

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A fascinating look at various aspects of Mars history, comparing science with the imagination of writers and film makers to give a reasonably up to date picture of Mars as it is today. Well done!

This was a fun read that was totally outside my typical choice. There is a wide variety on Mars related info packed into this book. It's easy to follow so don't be intimidated. I can't wait for Mars topic for trivia night!! I think this book would make a great gift for stargazers, hobbyist and interested teenagers. I also wish I had this book for inspiration for college papers as there was information collected so many fields. I want to thank Bloomsbury Publishing for an Advance Reading Copy and a fantastic reading adventure.

I loved this book. Author Nicky Jenner tells a great non-fiction story about Mars. The book covers how we've perceived Mars from ancient times and how we will study and travel to it in the future. It also discusses Mars in popular culture and I had to love a book that mentions Marvin the Martian. The book was hard to put down and I wanted to know how it would end. This is great science writing and I recommend it for anyone interested in astronomy. Disclosure: I received a complimentary copy of this book via Netgalley for review purposes.

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