



## Worlds without End: Exoplanets, Habitability, and the Future of Humanity

**Chris Impey**

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The electrifying account of planetary exploration in *Worlds Without End* is as enthralling as the best science fiction. Amazing in its scope and authority, this entertaining science book will appeal to anyone who has gazed into the night sky to imagine life beyond Earth.

The demotion of Pluto (RIP, 1930–2006) is a small loss compared with the remarkable advances in astroscience over the past thirty years. As this book explains, astronomers have discovered more than five thousand planets outside of our solar system since 1995, with several hundred billion estimated in the Milky Way alone. Most of these planets orbit a star and are incredibly difficult to detect. With ingenuity, grit, and sophisticated optics, however, scientists are successfully “chasing the shadows” of distant planets, including gas giants, ice giants, and water worlds, and speculating on how their chemistry, geology, and physics might impact habitability. These astronomers’ personal stories are fascinating, and their discoveries emphasize that Earth’s environment is rare and fragile.

Combining the latest science with cultural references ranging from Shakespeare to the movie *Avatar*, *Worlds Without End* will captivate readers who dream of life in galaxies far, far away.

KRISTEN RABE (May / June 2023)

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