

"Gleiser has a gift for telling a story grandly and clearly. His history is nothing if not thorough, beginning in early superstition and mythology and methodically working up to current scientific questions in cosmology and physics. Along the way, he touches on everything from philosophy to optics to artificial intelligence."

—**Science**

"Partway between Hannah Arendt's timeless manifesto for the unanswerable questions at the heart of meaning and Stuart Firestein's case for how not-knowing drives science, Gleiser explores our commitment to knowledge and our parallel flirtation with the mystery of the unknown. What emerges is at once a celebration of human achievement and a gentle reminder that the appropriate reaction to scientific and technological progress is not arrogance over the knowledge conquered, which seems to be our civilizational modus operandi, but humility in the face of what remains to be known and, perhaps above all, what may always remain unknowable.... *The Island of Knowledge* is an illuminating read in its totality."

—**Brain Pickings**

"[Gleiser] is a gifted writer."

—**Physics Today**

"[Gleiser's] discussions of cosmology and multiple universes are compelling.... [*The Island of Knowledge*] probe[s] deep into one of the most difficult intellectual problems on the human agenda.... [A] thorough and clear guide to the philosophical problems posed by the nature of the subatomic world."

—**Washington Post**

"The quest goes on, always presenting us with new things to wonder about and to wonder at. Without that sense of wonder, as Mr. Gleiser's excellent book makes clear, there would be no point in doing science at all."

—**John Gribbin, Wall Street Journal**

"Gleiser, who puts his faith in 'humility and hope,' writes with thoughtfulness and sensitivity, and without assuming that our current state of scientific knowledge is any more complete or final than that of previous generations."

—**Columbia Dispatch**

“The process that shapes public policy often includes debate about what scientific evidence does, can and can’t tell us. That debate can be enriched by this book.”

—***Pittsburgh Tribune-Review***

“Gleiser covers a broad swath of subjects—from cognition and curved space to particle physics, superstring theory, and multiverses—with a thoughtful, accessible style that balances philosophy with hard science. His island imagery will capture readers’ imagination as it examines the ideas that unnerve us even as they illuminate our world.”

—***Publishers Weekly, starred review***

“*The Island of Knowledge* is a history of the mind, its gift for finding ideas in things. The brilliance of centuries of philosophic and scientific inquiry, never more remarkable than at present, bears a profound resemblance to the brilliance it discovers in the universe. Marcelo Gleiser makes us feel what a privilege it is to be human.”

—**Marilynne Robinson, winner of the Pulitzer Prize and the National Humanities Medal, and author of *Gilead* and *Absence of Mind: The Dispelling of Inwardness from the Modern Myth of the Self***

“We’ve come to know far more than our ancestors could possibly have imagined—including the depth of our ignorance. In Gleiser’s lucid narrative, that marvelous paradox comes alive.”

—**Frank Wilczek, Nobel Laureate, and author of *The Lightness of Being***

“Marcelo Gleiser brings a physicist’s knowledge, a philosopher’s wisdom, and a poet’s language to elucidate our largest questions. If you finish *The Island of Knowledge* with all the same opinions with which you began it, then turn to page one and start reading again.”

—**Rebecca Goldstein, MacArthur Fellow, and author of *Plato at the Googleplex***

“Articulate, elegant, and at times poignant, *The Island of Knowledge* is a magnificent account of humanity’s struggle to understand its place in the cosmos. Starting from ancient knowledge of the motions of stars and planets and progressing to contemporary scientific theories of the origins of space and time, Gleiser shows how our efforts to

comprehend the universe have transformed it into something rich and strange.”

—**Seth Lloyd, Professor of Mechanical Engineering, MIT, and author of *Programming the Universe***

“Gleiser writes very well. He introduces the necessary concepts along the way, and is remarkably accurate while using a minimum of technical details. Some anecdotes from his own research and personal life are nicely integrated with the narrative and he has a knack for lyrical imagery which he uses sparsely but well timed to make his points.”

—**Sabine Hossenfelder, *Back Reaction blog***

“Gleiser’s exploration provides a thorough primer to the perplexing questions 20th-century physics raised about our comprehension of reality. This scientific education is interwoven with history and philosophy, providing a balanced and often enlightening perspective on the bounds of science. Highly recommended to those interested in theoretical physics and philosophy of science.”

—***Library Journal***