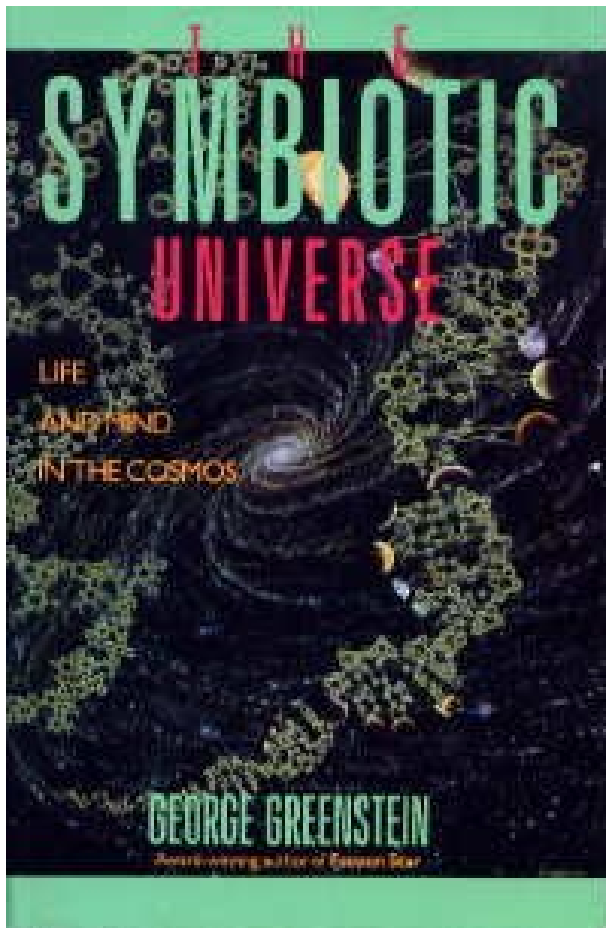


The symbiotic universe: Life and mind in the cosmos



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ISBN: 0688089100 The universe is fantastically hospitable to life. Even its apparent barrenness works in life's favor; if it were more crowded, violent collisions between stars, and almost equally destructive near-misses, would render the universe uninhabitable. In *The Symbiotic Universe*, George Greenstein explores the controversial Anthropic Principle, the notion that the list of coincidences that work to life's advantage is simply too large to ignore. Greenstein rejects anthropocentrism and theism; he has no truck with the belief that we are the center of the universe, or that some agency providentially crafted the cosmos.

He looks to quantum mechanics for an explanation of the universe's extraordinary fitness for life, and offers the provocative hypothesis that we are witnessing the effects of a gigantic symbiosis at work in the universe. George Greenstein is well aware that speculations of this kind make many physicists profoundly uncomfortable. *The Symbiotic Universe* demonstrates why discomfort may be necessary—and stimulating—in addressing issues that cross between the realms of physics and metaphysics.