

Customer Review of **The Design of Life: Discovering Signs of Intelligence In Biological Systems (Hardcover)**

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★☆☆☆☆ **another roadside attraction**, December 15, 2007
By [Dr. Eigenvalue](#)

The Mystery Spot is a tourist attraction located in Santa Cruz, California. It's considered Mysterious because it seems not to comply with the laws of gravity: One can stand upright on the wall or roll a ball uphill. The proprietors claim that the anti-gravity effects are due to an alien spaceship that is buried beneath the Spot.

The phenomena observed at the Mystery Spot are so completely unexpected that one has to consider the possibility that the Theory of Gravitation is incorrect. Indeed there is a great deal that is still not understood about gravitation, and fans of the Spot are quick to point out that scientists generally refuse to consider the influence of underground spaceships when formulating their theories. In response to this criticism, Newtonists point to the fact that The Theory of Gravitation has been tested successfully thousands of times, and that it routinely makes predictions that are verified.

The controversy between the Newtonists and the Underground Spaceship Theorists continues to simmer. The spaceship people have calculated that, even by generous estimates, the probability that all of the Mystery Spot phenomena could occur in 68 years (the Spot opened for business in 1939) is ludicrously small. So small that one could wait trillions of years and still not expect to observe a ball rolling up a hill without the influence of an Underground Spaceship. They suggest that Gravitation works well within certain limits beyond which buried spaceships need to be taken into account.

The Newtonists clearly feel threatened. Seeing their Theory under attack, they have been openly dismissive of the Underground Spaceship Theorists. Because they control the scientific journals and the schools, they have thus far been successful in preventing Spaceship Theory from entering the scientific mainstream. Recently a group of Newtonists actually travelled to the Mystery Spot, made some measurements, and determined that there actually was no gravitational anomaly! They claim that the area is simply positioned on an incline, which leads to a variety of optical illusions that render the Spaceship Theorists' calculations meaningless. Supporters of the Spaceship Theory have pointed out that the existence of the incline does not rule out the possibility that a spaceship is buried beneath the Spot.

Meanwhile the Mystery Spot continues to do brisk business. Neither the owners nor their customers are particularly interested in The Theory of Gravitation. For most people, underground spaceships are much more fun to think about, and the fact of the matter is that the ball really, really does look like it's rolling uphill.

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