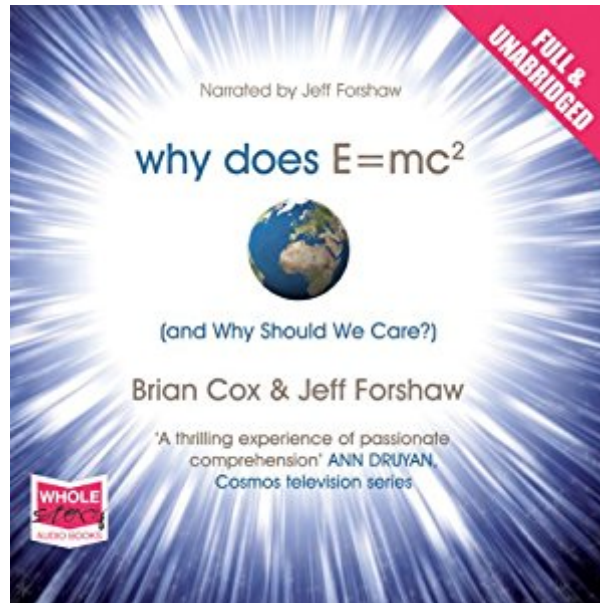


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# Why Does $E=MC^2$ And Why Should We Care



## Synopsis

In one of the most exciting and accessible explanations of The Theory of Relativity in recent years, Professors Brian Cox and Jeff Forshaw go on a journey to the frontier of 21st century science to consider the real meaning behind the iconic sequence of symbols that make up Einstein's most famous equation, exploring the principles of physics through everyday life.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The authors do a good job of describing the role on invariants in physics, and for that I am grateful. However the way they choose to simplify the math and science created more confusion for me than light. Their decision to not state the underlying formulas directly but instead to explain them in words required the authors to spread the formulas out over page after page making them unnecessarily difficult to follow. You cannot go back and review an equation because you can't find it buried in the text. Page 22 is a good example of unnecessary explanation. It requires the entire page to laboriously explain that  $x$ ,  $y$ , and  $z$  are variables. (Do the authors really believe someone would buy a book with the title  $E=mc^2$  if they did not understand the concept of a variable??) Minor points are belabored while major shifts are completely unexplained. For example, on page 80, the authors explain invariants in terms of the radius of a circle, all points on the circumference are equal (invariant) distance from the center. They explain that when this model is applied to space-time, it violates Cause and Effect. The explanation is enlightening; so far, so good. To fix the problem with cause and effect, the authors take a next step that is bizarre and unexplained. They change the Pythagorean formula to create a hyperbola and never explain how this new model of S/T maintains

the invariance that was so obvious in the last model (the circle). Several commentators have noted this particular problem with book. Another example from page 131-3 is even more bizarre. After demonstrating that  $(\gamma)MC$  (the scaling factor of S/T time) is conserved, they then state the  $(\gamma)MC^2$  is also conserved (Ok, I will take your word on that ...).

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