


opening extract from

# the stunning science of everything

written by

nick arnold

illustrated by tony de saulles

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# THE STUNNING START




Science is about everything. It's about...




And there's much, much more. But that's the problem. There's too much science! Too much to learn, too much to remember. I mean, how can any normal person ever make sense of science?

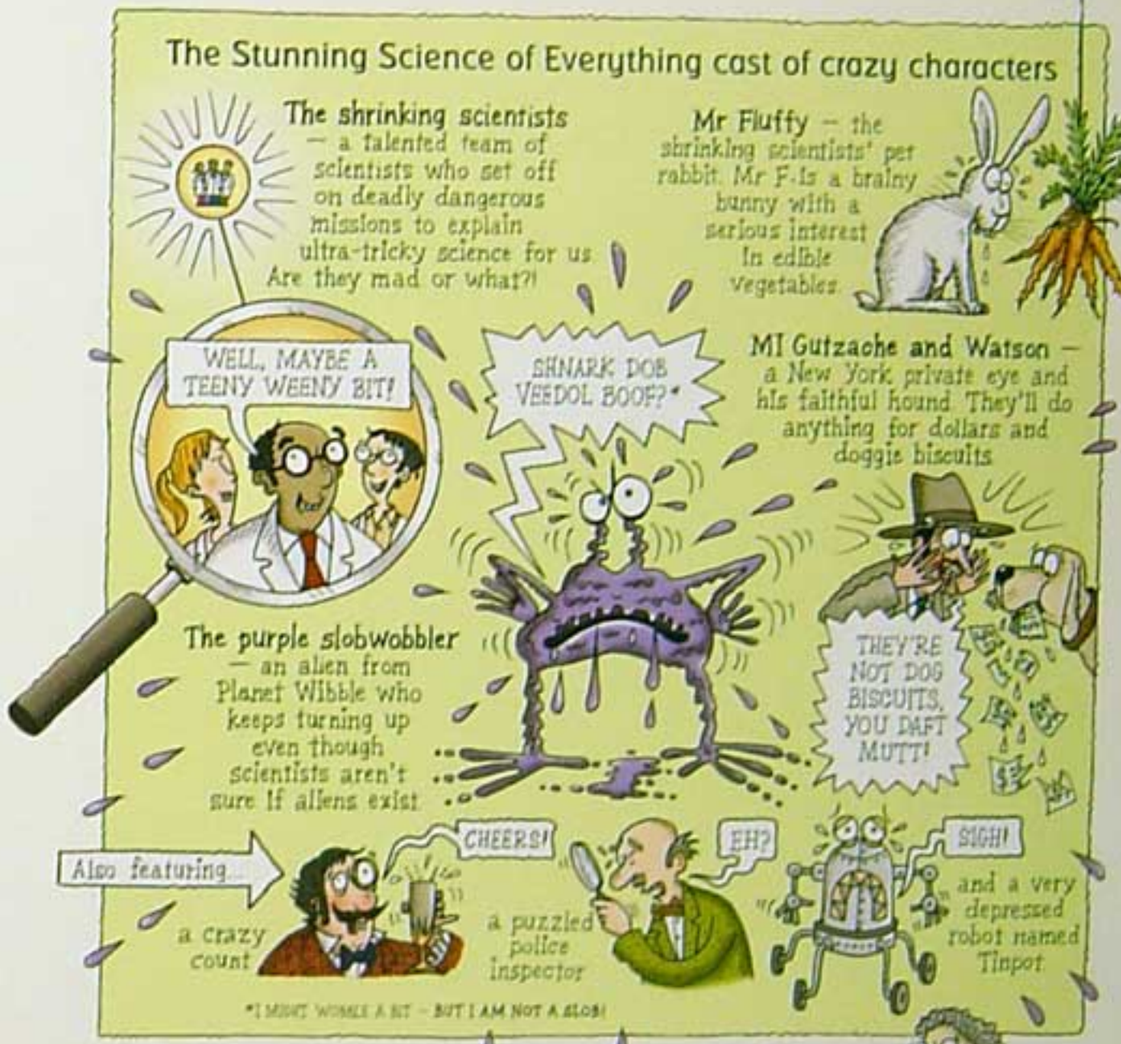
Well, you could try building a super-powerful computer, program it with every science fact in the universe and plug it into your brain. But this might have unpleasant side effects...




Or you could read this book... *The Stunning Science of Everything* tackles science in a new way. It's called size-sorting – which means looking at everything in order of size. That's why Chapter 1 starts with the universe in its first second, when it was the tiniest thing ever. And the topics just get bigger and BIGGER until at last you get to see the BIG PICTURE OF EVERYTHING and the whole of science makes stunning sense! (The big picture's on page 92, but don't go peeking at it until you've read the rest of this book!)

We'll be exploring the science of everything with the aid of a crazy collection of made-up characters...






And because this is a Horrible Science book, every page is oozing with horribly funny bits that are guaranteed to make you gag and giggle. But that's not all – since this is a very special posh book, it's printed in gloriously gory colour so you can read about the bloody bits and *see* them too! But don't take my word for it – just turn the page to find out how everything began, and discover why you're actually as old as your granny...






# THE BRAIN-BOGGLING BIG BANG




**Everything started with a Big Bang. That's how scientists describe the moment the universe popped out of nothing 13.7 billion years ago. But what was nothing like? Well here's a brain-bending experiment to show you the answer...**

A thought experiment is an experiment that scientists imagine in their heads. All you need to try one is...




WARNING! These experiments are guaranteed not to make a mess, but don't think too hard or brain juice might squirt from your ears.




## Stunning thought experiment – lots of fuss about nothing...

Imagine you're a magician and you make Mr Fluffy vanish. That's right! You pop him into a top hat, wave your magic wand and ABRACADABRA, hey presto – the hat is empty! There's nothing in it!

Now imagine a harder trick. This time you stuff the universe into your hat and make that disappear too!

WOW – now there's NOTHING around you! There's no light and no dark, no space and no time. In fact there's nothing at all. Er, hold on – there's no air to breathe, so you'd better bring the universe back pretty quick!




Nothing sounded a bit scary, didn't it? I bet you wouldn't want to spend the weekend there. But before the universe there really was nothing at all.






BEWARE! You should NEVER ask a scientist this question! If you do, they might gibber and froth at the mouth or, even worse, they might start mumbling about virtual particles in quantum foam and things that happened in other dimensions... The truth is, no one's too sure *why* it happened. All I can say is that the Big Bang would have been BIG news – if there'd been any newspapers to report it...




Mind you, the Big Bang wasn't actually a bang at all. There was no air to carry the sound so it wasn't as loud as your dad snoring. Oh dear, I hope you're not too disappointed...