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is not surprising that it takes a large format book of 512 pages to grapple with the concept of the universe. Profusely illustrated with photographs, illustrations, and diagrams, this volume is organized in three sections. The first is an introduction and overview of the basic concepts of astronomy. The second section looks at the solar system, the Milky Way, and space beyond. The last section is a guide to the night sky including star maps. Each spread is packed with information in the form of text and images about basic topics, such as matter, chemical elements, particle physics, and black holes. It is the most basic of premises that are the most startling. Is it possible that this unimaginably immense entity we call the universe is in fact governed by one set of basic laws? Stephen Hawkins is quoted as saying that the search for the ultimate laws of nature may be in sight. To add to our sense of wonder: photographs of star formations, jarring to any sense of scale that is meaningful. For those who ponder the night sky, monthly star charts include both northern and southern latitudes. Planet locator charts show where the planets can be found for the next seven years.