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Book Review: Flash!: The Hunt for the Biggest Explosions in the Universe

T. D. Oswalt
Florida Institute of Technology, oswaltt1@erau.edu

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Flash! : the hunt for the biggest explosions in the universe



Schilling, Govert. tr. by Naomi Greenberg-Slovin Cambridge, 2002

291p, 0-521-80053-6 \$28.00

LC Call Number: [QB471](#)

This English translation of Schilling's book is a very engaging account of one of the most active areas of modern astronomical research, gamma ray bursters (GRBs). Schilling provides many personal vignettes of key players in the discovery and investigation of GRBs. Although he tends to assign credit for incremental breakthroughs to specific individuals rather than the entire teams involved, Schilling provides an excellent peek into the workings of modern science. He also emphasizes how the entire suite of astronomical facilities, both large and small, both ground- and space-based, both optical and nonoptical, have been brought to bear on one of the most perplexing astronomical mysteries of the late 20th century. Anyone that believes that only the Hubble Space Telescope makes breakthrough discoveries should read this book. It is rare to see such clear writing on a technical subject. Everyday examples are frequently used to illustrate the more difficult concepts. Those who want more details will appreciate the glossary and references to the scientific literature. Almost without realizing it, readers will also get a good introduction to elementary astronomy as a bonus. A must-read for anyone interested in GRBs! All levels.

Summing Up:

Reviewer: [T. D. Oswalt](#), Florida Institute of Technology

Recommendation:

Readership Level: All Readership Levels, General Readers, Lower-division Undergraduates, Upper-division Undergraduates, Graduate Students, Researchers/Faculty, Two-Year Technical Program Students, Professionals/Practitioners

Interdisciplinary Subjects:

Subject: [Science & Technology - Astronautics & Astronomy](#)