

Contents

Introduction: Our Cosmic Environment / 1

PART I SUN / 17

1 Ice Ages Great and Small / 23

2 Changing Stars, Changing Climates / 39

3 Hidden Connections and Solar Science / 49

4 Solar Storms and Existential Risk / 60

Conclusion Harnessing Our Star / 75

PART II VENUS / 77

5 Measuring the Universe / 85

6 Venus as a Changing Earth / 92

7 Worlds in Collision / 103

8 Remaking Venus and Earth / 116

Conclusion Earth's Once and Future Twin? / 134

PART III MOON / 137

9 Muses of the Moon / 143

10 The Promise and Peril of Lunar Life / 158

11 Lunar Changes, Human Ambitions / 170

12 Exploiting the Moon / 181

Conclusion Navigating the Lunar Anthropocene / 195

PART IV MARS / 199

- 13 Unveiling a New World / 205
- 14 Aliens on an Aged Earth / 215
- 15 Meeting the Martians / 235
- 16 Reshaping Planetary Climates / 251
- Conclusion A Planet for Dreamers / 264

PART V COMETS AND ASTEROIDS / 267

- 17 Warnings in the Heavens / 273
- 18 Encountering Near-Earth Objects / 284
- 19 Giggles and Close Calls / 296
- 20 Avoiding Jupiter's Fate / 313
- Conclusion Saving Earth, Fueling the Future? / 322

Conclusion: A Shore on the Cosmic Ocean / 327

Notes / 339

Acknowledgments / 387

Illustration Credits / 391

Index / 393