



Time And Space of Uncle Albert

By Russell Stannard

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Uncle Albert, the famous scientist, has got stuck. To unlock the deep mysteries of space and time someone must agree to be beamed up into the unknown world of the thought bubble. His brave niece, Gedanken, decides to risk it. So begin her exciting and astonishing adventures.

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Time And Space of Uncle Albert By Russell Stannard Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #3821698 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Faber n Faber
- Published on: 1998-06-08
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 7.05" h x .43" w x 4.41" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 128 pages

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

A science project for young Gedanken turns into an exploration of space and time when her Uncle Albert steps in. Uncle Albert is a famous scientist, and it's his imagination that sends Gedanken into the "largest spacecraft never built" to examine near light-speed phenomena. This Albert is no Einstein, but with his help, Gedanken is led through Einstein's Special Theory of Relativity in a painlessly educational manner. This fictional approach to highly technical material has the obvious drawback--it is didactic. Nevertheless, the author's clear, single-minded presentation of the material does work. Although no young readers will mistake these somewhat talky adventures for science fiction in the classic sense, Stannard's easily understood explication of this century's most elegant and thought-provoking scientific ideas makes it worthwhile. Ages 11-up.

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From School Library Journal

Grade 4-6-- The point of this novel is not to engage readers in the lives of its characters, but to explain Einstein's theory of relativity. Uncle Albert and his niece Gedanken unravel and reveal abstract concepts through a computer and a spacecraft that allow her to travel in time and space. For the most part, the concepts do become comprehensible, but the device of a fictional framework supported by a contrived plot proves intrusive. The dialogue is plodding and talky, the characterization weighed down by cliches and repetitiousness. ("That's stupid," Gedanken frequently responds to her kindly, eccentric, brilliant uncle.) The personification of the computer and the giggling light-beams do not give credence to the scientific demonstrations. Packaging a discussion of difficult-to-grasp scientific theory as fiction undermines both readers who want straightforward information and those who are after a good story. Necia Apfel's *It's All Relative* (Lothrop, 1985) is a more lucid entry to Einstein's theories. --Susan H. Patron, Los Angeles Public Library

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About the Author

No Bio

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