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# George's Secret Key to the Universe

## Lucy Hawking and Stephen Hawking

Children's writer and science educator Lucy Hawking is visiting South Africa to highlight the importance of getting young people excited about science through stories. She will be in Johannesburg from 11–13 October and in Cape Town from 14–19 October and will be available for limited interviews. The visit takes place in the week that Jacana Media and the Little Hands Trust, PRAESA launch the isiXhosa and isiZulu versions of her book, *George's Secret to the Universe*. It is the first of a series of adventure stories that aim to explain complex science to a young audience through a mix of story and scientific fact.

First published in English in 2007, this is the first time children and the adults who read with them will have a story to stimulate curiosity and interest in science available in isiZulu and isiXhosa. PRAESA initiated this translation project as part of their ongoing work to help ensure children have access to relevant and interesting reading materials in African languages and English.

The book inspires its readers about the foundations of astronomy, astrophysics, cosmology and other principles that govern our universe. It is the story of George, who's taken through the vastness of space by a scientist, his daughter, and their super-computer named Cosmos to fight the forces of evil, using scientific information, facts and theories they learn along the way. It starts by describing black holes, atoms, stars, planets and their moons.

It has humorous illustrations and interesting facts about the different references to universal objects, including a picture of Mars with its Moons.

### ABOUT THE AUTHORS

**Lucy Hawking** is an author and journalist who works with world-leading scientists to write adventure stories that explain complex science in simple terms to young readers. Lucy has written six books in the George Greenby series. In 2015, she won a grant from the UK Space Agency to create resources for primary school children, called the Principia Space Diary, to encourage engagement with STEM subjects, themed on space travel.



**Stephen Hawking** is an English theoretical physicist, cosmologist, author and Director of Research at the Centre for Theoretical Cosmology within the University of Cambridge and an author of the multi-million-copy bestselling *A Brief History of Time*. His scientific works include collaboration with Roger Penrose on gravitational singularity theorems in the framework of general relativity and the theoretical prediction that black holes emit radiation, often called Hawking radiation.