

Type: Book Review

## Travelling to Infinity by Jane Hawking

When I first saw this book on the SHU book cart, I thought, "Awesome! I finally get to read about Stephen Hawking's theories!"

Maiz non. I was disappointed when I realized it was a book by Stephen's wife about her life with him. But, having run out of jokes to tell my homicidal/suicidal (he tied a cellie up, stabbed him to death, + wants the death penalty) neighbor, I decided to truck through Jane's story.

I know she wrote it + would have to be inhuman not to subconsciously spin her tale in a way that flatters her. Even so, I soon realized that Jane Hawking was very close to being a saint + Stephen Hawking developed into an ass. (Stephen's assiness was necessary to survive motor-neuron disease + to break ground in physics — Einstein too was notoriously oblivious of his wife's needs. Too bad Jane didn't know what would come...)

A friend of mine told me how thoroughly miserable she was being a classic housewife, which was my first exposure to the reality of desperate housewives. But Jane's book beat that truth into me.

I came away feeling sorry for Jane, wondering why the hell she didn't split from Stephen earlier + live with the man she came to marry, a man who clearly was a better match for her.

Her book, which is finely written, easy to read, presents a personally account about the eternal conflict between the arts + science. Jane (+ the man she later married, Jonathan) was an artist, while Stephen was/is a hard scientist. Jane sacrificed her artistic yearnings, including her spirituality,

in deference to Stephen & his needs/pursuits. And that is a tragedy, which pained me, angered me, as I read. I can not admire Stephen Hawking as a person for being able to let Jane so obviously sacrifice her needs/pursuits for him, especially given that he was an ardent socialist. Yet I do admire Stephen as a scientist & as a survivor.

Jane's book is worth reading... especially by male physics grad students. Guys, we gotta show the women in our lives more love & give them '1/2 the credit for our achievements.

Wish you the best Jane Hawking. 😊

P.S. I'm awaiting transfer. Those who wish to mail me anything, find my current address on bop.gov

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