Science and Sensibility



Science and Sensibility

From the Heavens Above to the Earth Below

David Howe



The Lutterworth Press

THE LUTTERWORTH PRESS

P.O. Box 60 Cambridge CB1 2NT United Kingdom

www.lutterworth.com. publishing@lutterworth.com

Paperback ISBN: 978 0 7188 9809 0 PDF ISBN: 978 0 7188 9810 6 ePub ISBN: 978 0 7188 9811 3

British Library Cataloguing-in-Publication Data A record is available from the British Library

First published by The Lutterworth Press, 2025

Copyright © David Howe, 2025

All rights reserved. No part of this edition may be reproduced, stored electronically or in any retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without prior written permission from the Publisher (permissions@lutterworth.com).



For Jacob and Rebecca



Contents

Acknowledg	rements	ix
Part I: Ord	er and Romance	
1.	Wondering High and Low	3
2.	Order and Meaning	10
Part II: Sta	rs	
3.	Star Struck	21
4.	Let Me Play among the Stars	32
Part III: Cl	ouds	
5.	Head in the Clouds	45
6.	Weather Forecasts and Cloudy Thinking	57
Part IV: Ro	cks	
7.	Down to Earth	65
8.	Mary Anning and 'Strata' Smith	74
9.	Geological Time and the Restless Planet	88

Part V: Life	
10. Plants and Animals	103
11. On the Origin of Species	114
12. Genetics	123
Part VI: Elements	
13. The Philosopher's Stone	133
14. The Rise of the Chemist	138
15. In Their Element	143
16. The Periodic Table	151
17. Sentient Stardust	159
Part VII: One World	
18. It Takes All Sorts	167
19. Sense and Sensibility	179
20. The Art of Science	186
Endnotes	
Bibliography	
Index	225