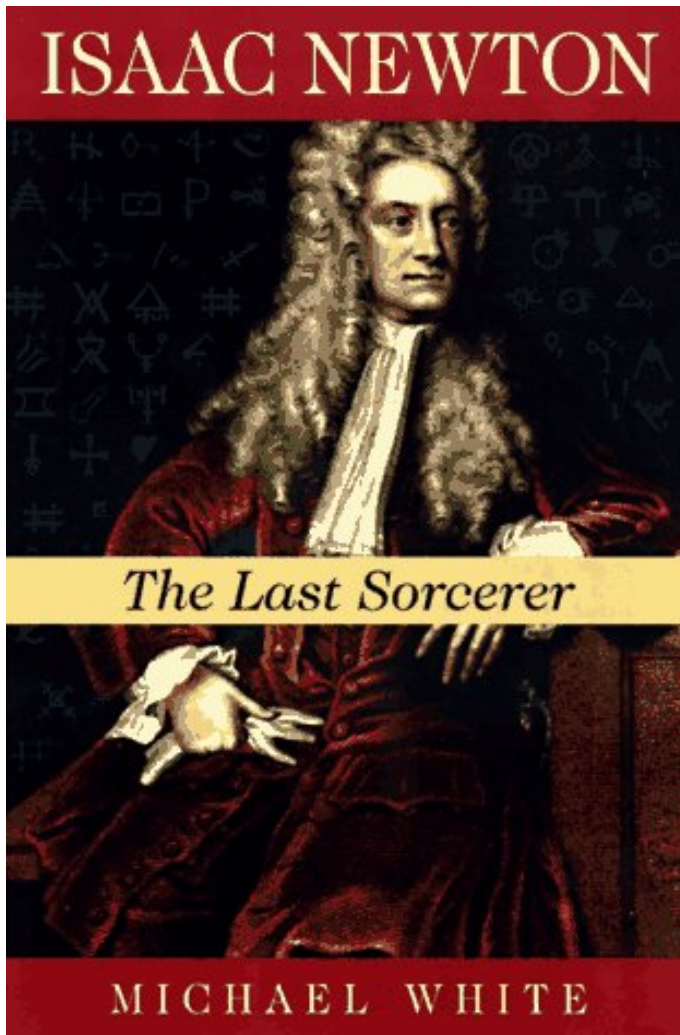


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**Michael White**

**Isaac Newton: The Last Sorcerer**



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Author: Michael White

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## Description

Unknown to all but a few, Newton was a practicing alchemist who dabbled with the occult, a tortured, obsessive character who searched for an understanding of the universe by whatever means possible. Sympathetic yet balanced, Michael White's *Isaac Newton* offers a revelatory picture of Newton as a genius who stood at the point in history where magic ended and science began.

## Insightful reviews

Rachael: Of what I read, it seemed a good and well written work. I just ran out of time, got busy and it was due back at the library. Perhaps I'll recheck it and finish it, but I'm not sure.

Paulo Girão: Norwegian version. Interesting about Newton. A lot of interesting facts that I was previously unaware, like his life long disputes with Robert Hooke, Leibniz, and others.

Warack60: A biography which lays out Newton in an unflattering manner, and describes in great detail his shortcomings. However, you also get a sense of what facilitated this man's great discoveries (calculus most notably) and his publications (*Principia*). The only aspect preventing me from giving this 5 stars is the occurrence every 50 pages or so of dedicating a page or two to repeating almost verbatim an introduction to a topic as the book closed on said topic rather than summing up what was just described or just moving on to the next topic. It really deserves a 9 out of 10, but I would suggest this to anyone wanting a true narrative of the life of possibly the greatest mind of the 17th century, but also a man delving into topics of alchemy and religious fanaticism.

Roger: In my opinion, Michael White has written an excellent, good researched biography of 1 of our best scientists. He explains intimately how Isaac Newton had a bothered adolescence and the way this can have adversely affected his character in later life, major him to be very secretive, trusting few humans and disliking criticism, and leading to him being reticent to submit his theories. His *Principia*, for example, used to be two decades within the making and while it used to be released it used to be in Latin and intentionally written in how to determine only a few humans will be in a position to comprehend it. White additionally does a great task of explaining the awful surroundings at Cambridge college within the seventeenth century, and the workings and politics of the Royal Society, then in its infancy. either associations have been very assorted then to how they're within the twenty first century. As the identify of the publication suggests, White locations a lot emphasis on Newton's alchemy endeavours, and the way Newton observed alchemy as a manner of explaining nature and the universe, and offering an perception into the brain of God. To Newton, and to many others of the period, alchemy intended much more than transmuting base metals into gold, or discovering the elixir of life. Newton used to be no longer by myself in believing that old civilisations had a far fuller figuring out of nature, the universe and God and that those revelations were misplaced within the mists of time yet can be re-discovered throughout the old paintings of alchemy and by way of learning the bible. White explains all of this very clearly. Newton performed an incredible variety of alchemical investigations to aim to unencumber the that means of life, in addition to project

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targeted analyses of the bible for comparable purposes. while i may settle for that somebody in that era, even anyone like Newton, might see stable purposes for undertaking alchemy and re-interpreting the bible, regrettably White did not persuade me that Newton's examine in those components were the most important to major him to his conclusions on gravitation. To me that truly did not make feel and in a fashion this can be a pity since it appeared to be an incredible aim of the book. Another topic via a lot of the publication was once the private antagonism among Newton and others. a primary instance used to be Newton's abhorrence of Robert Hooke, and vice-versa. This mutual loathing is documented in other places yet I did believe that White painted Hooke to be blacker than he fairly was. different debts check with Hooke's attractiveness and his honesty. i will not support feeling that either scientists have been both guilty for the detestation that existed among them. Likewise, Newton held a grudge opposed to the Astronomer Royal, John Flamsteed, who he felt used to be hindering his paintings at the moment version of the Principia through dallying over the availability of astronomical observations. Newton used Machiavellian ways to undermine Flamsteed, even utilizing Prince George as a fashion of having on the data. one other sufferer of Newton's malevolence was once the polymath Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz who had independently invented calculus, yet who came upon himself being accused of stealing Newton's (then unpublished) work. Newton was once unforgiving of these who he believed had crossed him and he bore grudges opposed to those members for ever more. But from the e-book we research that no matter what Newton did, he invested all of his efforts into that undertaking, be it engaging in investigations into alchemy, optics and gravitation, operating the Royal Mint, or being President of the Royal Society. Over his lifetime he bought many enemies and turns out to have made few friends. and people buddies he did make didn't regularly get the loyalty from Newton they might have anticipated in occasions of adversity. Overall, Michael White paints a shiny photograph of a genius who used to be a workaholic but additionally a vindictive misanthrope who sought to ruin these he fell out with. most often a completely nasty person yet person who was once however largely revered for his abilities, if now not for his personality. i glance ahead to analyzing extra biographies through White.

Scott Smith: probably no longer the main scholarly biography ever, yet i used to be trying to find anything that emphasised Newton's adventure with alchemy and occult variety issues for my research, and this can do.

Keith Parrish: I fished this ebook out of the discard pile at our heart tuition library. seems I must have left it there. Dry as dust, established principally at the (not constantly supported) conjecture of the writer and with a questionable thesis at best. in fact the largest query i've got is - What nimrod notion this used to be an exceptional publication for a center institution library within the first place? i love history, and that i like science, or even i presumed this used to be boring.

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