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Pacific Book Review

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Title: The Arecibo Antenna
Author: Helias Doundoulakis
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Reviewed by: Tony Espinoza

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One of the world's most rarely recognized yet truly incredible scientific inventions has to be the telescope. Over the years, telescopes have been built for a multitude of reasons. From the original designs to observe the celestial bodies above us, to more modern abilities to observe radio and ultraviolet wavelengths that remain invisible to the naked eye, telescopes have allowed our world to truly understand just how small our world is in comparison to the rest of the universe. As Henry David Thorough once said, "Where there is an observatory and a telescope, we expect that any eyes will see new worlds at once."

In author Helias Doundoulakis's *The Arecibo Antenna*, the author takes readers through the secret history of the development of the infamous Arecibo Radio Telescope. In his final book, the author hopes to demystify the legends and rumors surrounding the Arecibo for those who don't know the history of this telescope quite as well. Using a chronological account, the author showcases six decades of this telescope's history as the author's brother George Doundoulakis went ahead and founded its conception and fielding. George would go on to secure patent rights for the author, as well as CIA director William Casey and Gus Michalos. The author hopes to showcase the two brothers and their journey of inspiration as they became the architects of generations of scientists and their discoveries for years to come.

Immediately, what struck me as so unique was the authors ability to balance the book in a way that showcased the history and education surrounding the development of this landmark telescope, all while writing the book in a memoir-style, even featuring personal and historical experiences together. The thought and care the author puts into this book are felt in his writing, and the detailed approach the author put into bringing this history to life made the writing take on a sense of imagery as well. It was almost as if the reader felt transported to the very beginning, imagining the height of the Cold War and the important meetings that helped shape what this landmark would become.

This is the perfect read for those who enjoy non-fiction books, especially those that enjoy a book that incorporates education and learning into the subject matter, as well as those who enjoy history, science, and memoir-style storytelling. As a fan of history and memoirs, I was enthralled by the author's experiences and the pieces of history that few, if any, really have any understanding of, especially how such a powerful and world-renowned telescope could have come to life during this particular moment in time.

Insightful, entertaining, and engaging, author Helias Doundoulakis's *The Arecibo Antenna* is a must-read nonfiction, memoir-style and historical story. The expertise and passion for which the author writes, as well as the incredible detail that went into the events leading up to and after the development and conception of this piece of technology, made this author's story so captivating to behold.