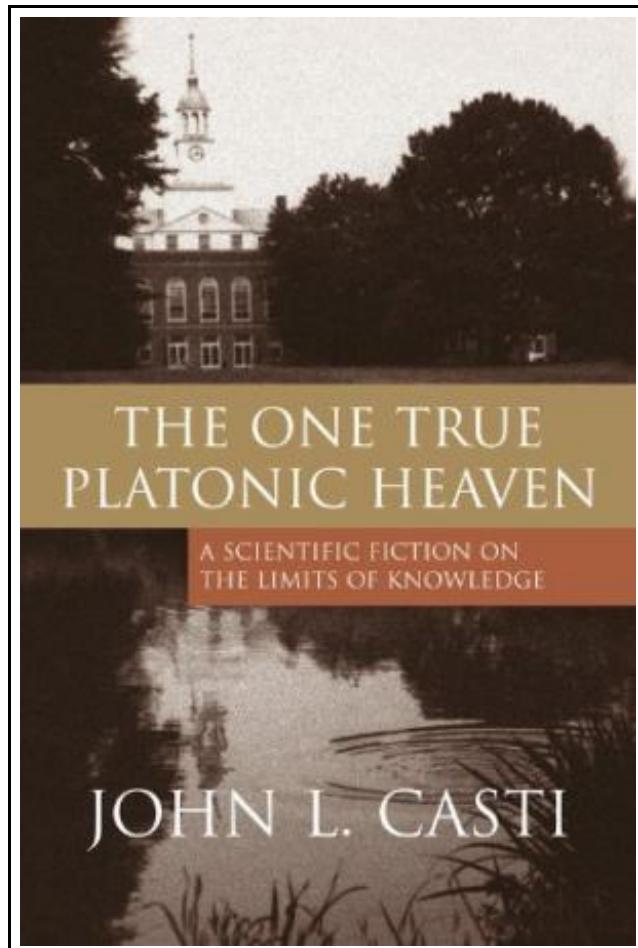


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National Academies Press. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, *The One True Platonic Heaven: A Scientific Fiction of the Limits of Knowledge*, John L. Casti, Joseph Henry Press, National Academy of Sciences, By the author of *The Cambridge Quintet*, John L. Casti's new book continues the tradition of combining science fact with just the right dose of fiction. Part novel, part science -- wholly informative and entertaining. In the fall of 1933 the newly founded Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, New Jersey, welcomed its first faculty member, Albert Einstein. With this superstar on the roster, the Institute was able to attract many more of the greatest scholars, scientists, and poets from around the world. It was to be an intellectual haven, a place where the most brilliant minds on the planet, sheltered from the outside world's cares and calamities, could study and collaborate and devote their time to the pure and exclusive pursuit of knowledge. For many of them, it was the "one, true, platonic heaven." Over the years, key figures at the Institute began to question the limits to what science could tell us about the world, pondering the universal secrets it might unlock. Could science be the ultimate source of truth; or are there intrinsic limits, built into the very fabric of the universe, to what we can learn? In the late 1940's and early 1950's, this important question was being asked and pondered upon by some of the Institute's deepest thinkers. Enter the *dramatis personae* to illuminate the science and the philosophy of the time. Mathematical logician Kurt Godel was the unacknowledged *Grant Exalted Ruler* of this platonic estate -- but he was a ruler without a scepter as he awaited the inexplicably indefinite postponement of his promotion to full, tenured professor. Also in residence was...



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