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William Poundstone

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When Poundstone extrapolates from Conway's "Life" that recursive application of a relatively simple rule can bring self-order to chaos, the inference is that order within our universe (The Universe) can be explained in the same way; that only recursion of simple rules is necessary to explain complexity and order and self-replication from some initial chaos.

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This embodies Poundstone's central thesis, that simple recursion begets complexity. "The Recursive Universe" examines this powerful idea from several angles and draws from a colorful range of disciplines: from information theory to cosmology, thermodynamics to computability theory.

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