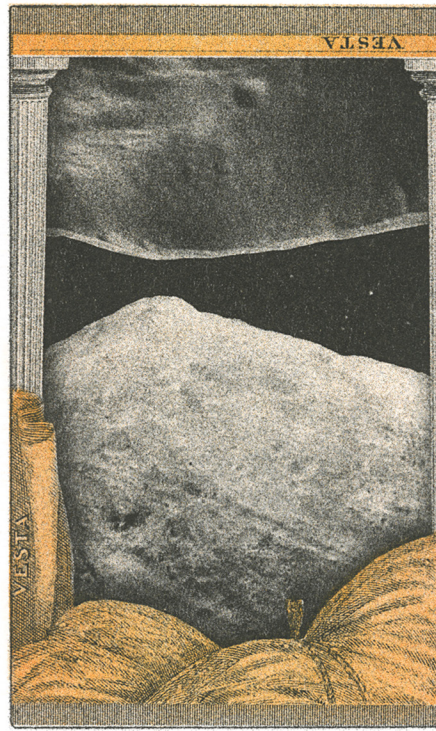




Images & Illustrations:  
NASA, British Library & Yale

The collision which formed the Rheasilvia crater launched a massive amount of debris from 4 Vesta into space. Around one hundred million years ago, some of this smaller debris was flung into near-Earth orbits by the unstable Kirkwood gap.

There the rock remained for as much as seventy-three million years before pieces began falling to Earth as meteorites.



Nearly destroying 4 Vesta entirely, this collision simultaneously formed a mountain and a 295 mile wide crater Rheasilvia. Reaching 13.6 miles into space, it is the tallest known mountain in our solar system, and is nearly three times taller than Mt. Everest.

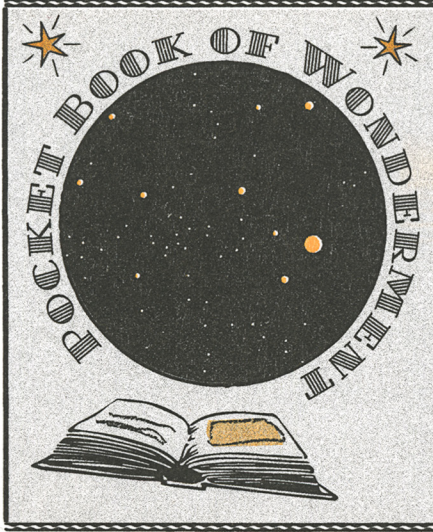
Vesta silently bears the evidence of her long watch in the craters A stippling her surface. A massive collision around one billion years ago decimated her southern hemisphere and left a series of stress fractures traversing her equator.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Around 5% of all meteorites on Earth come from 4 Vesta. These "vestoids" number over 1,200. Along with meteorites from the Moon and Mars, they are some of the only extraterrestrial objects collected on Earth where their home body is specifically known. Vesta is the Roman goddess of hearth and home.

Feeling too big or too small? Is it all too much or not enough? This Treadwell Press Pocket Book of Wonderment offers you a reviving dose of majesty held in the palm of your hand.

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## THE ASTEROID 4 VESTA

Long ago, when the solar system was still quite young, a beautiful asteroid we named 4 Vesta was formed around four and a half billion years ago.

This stony object, shaped like a potato and once with a molten core like our own planet, has borne constant witness through a span of time so deep as to transcend the limits of our comprehension.

