



The beat of a different drum: the life and science of Richard Feynman, Jagdish Mehra, Clarendon Press, 1994, 0198539487, 9780198539483, 630 pages. Few would argue that Richard Feynman was one of the greatest American-born theoretical physicists of the twentieth century, and fewer still would dispute that he was the most iconoclastic. In the words of the eminent mathematician Mark Kac, geniuses are of two kinds: the ordinary, and the magicians. Feynman was a magician of the highest caliber. No one could guess how his mind worked, how he could make transcendental leaps of the imagination so fearlessly. A true original, Feynman was both an inspired, Nobel-prize winning pioneer, and a born showman. He never lost sight of his vision of science as "a long history of learning how not to fool ourselves." The Beat of a Different Drum is a superb account of Feynman's life and work, encompassing a singular career that spanned from the detonation of the first atomic bomb at Los Alamos to the frontiers of our understanding of the universe. The first biography to offer deep insight into both Feynman's scientific achievements and his personal life, it is written by Jagdish Mehra. An accomplished physicist and historian of science in his own right, Mehra knew Feynman for thirty years, and their friendship deeply informs all aspects of the book. Feynman invited Mehra to spend three weeks with him shortly before his death in 1988, and after Feynman died, following a ten year battle against cancer, Mehra interviewed almost eighty of his friends and colleagues. They share their recollections of Feynman from his precocious childhood in Queens, New York, to his final days, painting an unforgettable portrait of a scientist who insisted throughout his life on taking the whole of nature as the arena of his science and his imagination. Mehra writes clearly and comprehensively about the theoretical and technical aspects of Feynman's achievements: his crucial role in the development of the atomic bomb; his association with Hans Bethe at Cornell, where he worked out his famous path-integral formulation of quantum mechanics and quantum electrodynamics, and went on to develop the Feynman diagrams, so ubiquitous in quantum field theory, elementary particle physics, and statistical mechanics; and the full range and depth of his work from 1950 until shortly before his death at the California Institute of Technology. Here, too, are intimate glimpses into the development of Feynman's inner life, including his devoted relationship with his extraordinary father, a self-taught uniform salesman, and his first marriage, to his boyhood sweetheart, Arline, whom he married knowing that she had only a short time to live. Feynman was an eyewitness to some of this century's key moments of scientific discovery, and Mehra devotes an entire chapter to Feynman's more philosophical reflections on the implications of these discoveries. Flamboyant and impatient, but dedicated to his vision of a better world through cooperation and the fearless pursuit of scientific truth, Feynman emerges here as a genius whom fellow Nobel laureate Julian Schwinger remembered as "an honest man; the outstanding intuitionist of our age and a prime example of what may lie in store for anyone who dares to follow the beat of a different drum."

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Photon-hadron Interactions , Richard Phillips Feynman, Richard P. Feynman, 1998, Science, 282 pages. Analyzes the theoretical questions related to electron and photon interactions at high energies..

Most of the good stuff memories of Richard Feynman, Richard Phillips Feynman, Laurie M. Brown,

1993, Biography & Autobiography, 181 pages. "A printed eulogy of one of the most interesting and creative physicists of our time....The reader gets fascinating first-person accounts from eminent physicists qua ardent

Something Incredibly Wonderful Happens Frank Oppenheimer and His Astonishing Exploratorium, K. C. Cole, Aug 15, 2012, Biography & Autobiography, 416 pages. Cole--a friend and colleague of Frank Oppenheimer's for many years--has drawn from letters, documents, and extensive interviews to write a very personal story of the man whose

Genius The Life and Science of Richard Feynman, , 1992, Biography & Autobiography, 531 pages. A biography of the flamboyant Nobel Prize-winning scientist describes how Feynman cracked safes, played the bongos, studied the behavior of Jell-O, and conducted experiments in

Modern Physics , Paul A. Tipler, Ralph Llewellyn, 2003, Science, 731 pages. Tipler and Llewellyn's acclaimed text for the intermediate-level course (not the third semester of the introductory course) guides students through the foundations and wide

Quantum Liquids Bose Condensation and Cooper Pairing in Condensed-matter Systems, Anthony J. Leggett, 2006, Science, 388 pages. An introduction, using simple arguments, to the general field of Bose condensation and Cooper pairing. It often treats standard textbook material from a new perspective, and

J. Robert Oppenheimer shatterer of worlds, Peter Goodchild, 1985, Biography & Autobiography, 301 pages. Interviews and newly released FBI material help to answer questions about the life, personality, and work of the man who headed the Los Alamos atom-bomb project and was later

Einstein a life, Denis Brian, Apr 20, 1996, Biography & Autobiography, 509 pages. Looks at the events in the life of physicist Albert Einstein, including his childhood in Germany, his trip to America, and his winning of the Nobel Prize.

Hamilton's Method in Geometrical Optics, Issues 9-10 , John Lighton Synge, University of Maryland, College Park. Institute for Fluid Dynamics and Applied Mathematics, 1951, Science, 128 pages. .

Statistics for Nuclear and Particle Physicists , , Apr 6, 1989, Science, 226 pages. This practical approach to statistical problems arising regularly in analyzing data from nuclear and high energy physics experiments is geared toward non-statisticians..

The joy of insight passions of a physicist, Victor Frederick Weisskopf, 1991, Biography & Autobiography, 336 pages. Chronicles the life of the man who came of age as a physicist in prewar Europe, was at the forefront of particle physics research, and became one of the early advocates of

Tuxedo Park A Wall Street Tycoon and the Secret Palace of Science That Changed the Course of World War II, Jennet Conant, May 6, 2003, Biography & Autobiography, 330 pages. Presents the story of financier Alfred Lee Loomis and his role in the American victory during World War II, discussing Tuxedo Park, the lavish safe haven he created for some of

Not Even Wrong The Failure of String Theory and the Search for Unity in Physical Law, Peter Woit, 2006, Science, 291 pages. Has physics gone off in the wrong direction? Peter Woit presents the other side of the growing debate on string theory--arguing that it's not even science.

Tuva Or Bust! Richard Feynman's Last Journey, Ralph Leighton, 2000, Biography & Autobiography, 260 pages. A close friend of physicist Richard Feynman chronicles his relationship with the scientist and describes their ten-year quest to reach the remote country of Tannu Tuva..

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