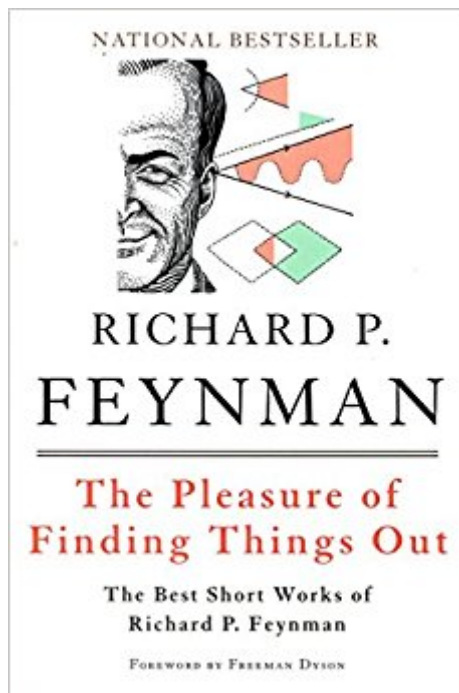




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The Pleasure Of Finding Things Out: The Best Short Works Of Richard P. Feynman (Helix Books)



Synopsis

The Pleasure of Finding Things Out is a magnificent treasury of the best short works of Richard P. Feynman; from interviews and speeches to lectures and printed articles. A sweeping, wide-ranging collection, it presents an intimate and fascinating view of a life in science—a life like no other. From his ruminations on science in our culture to his Nobel Prize acceptance speech, this book will fascinate anyone interested in the world of ideas.

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Customer Reviews

Why do we do science? Beyond altruistic and self-aggrandizing motivations, many of our best scientists work long hours seeking the electric thrill that comes only from learning something that nobody knew before. The Pleasure of Finding Things Out, a collection of previously unpublished or difficult-to-find short works by maverick physicist Richard Feynman, takes its title from his own answer. From TV interview transcripts to his acceptance speech for the Nobel Prize, we see his quick, sharp wit, his devotion to his work, and his unwillingness to bow to social pressure or convention. It's no wonder he was only grudgingly admired by the establishment during his lifetime--read his "Minority Report to the Space Shuttle Challenger Inquiry" to see him blowing off political considerations as impediments to finding the truth. Feynman had a fantastic sense of humor, and his memoirs of his Manhattan Project days roil with fun despite his later misgivings about nuclear weapons. Though one or two pieces are a bit hard to follow for the nontechnical reader, for the most part the book is easygoing and engaging on a personal rather than a scientific

level. Freeman Dyson's foreword and editor Jeffrey Robbins's introductions to each essay set the stage well and are respectful without being worshipful. Though Feynman has been gone now for many years, his work lives on in quantum physics, computer design, and nanotechnology; like any great scientist, he asked more questions than he answered, to give future generations the pleasure of finding things out. --Rob Lightner --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

A Nobel-winning physicist, inveterate prankster and gifted teacher, Feynman (1918-1988) charmed plenty of contemporary and future scientists with accounts of his misadventures in the bestselling *Surely You're Joking, Mr. Feynman!* and explained the fundamentals of physics in (among other books) *Six Easy Pieces*. Editor Jeffrey Robbins's assemblage of 13 essays, interviews and addresses (only one of them new to print) will satisfy admirers of those books and other fans of the brilliant and colorful scientist. Best known among the selections here is certainly Feynman's "Minority Report to the Challenger Inquiry," in which the physicist explained to an anxious nation why the Space Shuttle exploded. The title piece transcribes a wide-ranging, often-autobiographical interview Feynman gave in 1981; an earlier talk with *Omni* magazine has the author explaining his prize-winning work on quantum electrodynamics, then fixing the interviewer's tape recorder. Other pieces address the field of nanotechnology, "The Relation of Science and Religion" and Feynman's experience at Los Alamos, where he helped create the A-bomb (and, in his spare time, cracked safes). Much of the work here was originally meant for oral delivery, as speeches or lectures: Feynman's talky informality can seduce, but some of the pieces read more like unedited tape transcripts than like science writing. Most often, however, Feynman remains fun and informative. Here are yet more comments, anecdotes and overviews from a charismatic rulebreaker with his own, sometimes compelling, views about what science is and how it can be done. (Oct.) Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Richard Feynman was one of the world's greatest physicists and characters. If you have read anything about his life you know that he was irreverent, quirky, odd and an absolute genius of the highest magnitude. This is a fantastic book to understand the power of curiosity. If you want to know how one of the smartest people on the face of the earth approached innovation, creativity and deep thinking *Yes! The Feynman Lectures on Physics* is an excellent book to read.

A work of brilliance communicated with wit and rationality. This is an excellent sampling of Captain Feynman's short works. Also, the cover is much better than the one pictured here (see photos), and the price here is unbeatable. This is definitely a book you want in your library, and this is certainly the place to buy it.

Actually ordered this by mistake. Meant to order Surely You're Joking.... But it was a happy mistake. Still not a big fan of books made from assorted papers because they just don't flow well. It is much easier to read them when the person is interesting. Some folks are critical of Mr. Feynman's antics over the years. He just seemed playful, curious and refreshingly honest. Most people try to hide their weaknesses, especially those in the sciences. Not him. He openly discussed his quirks and personality flaws. He loved what he did and seemed happy. That showed throughout the book. But he was not refined, cultured or overly full of himself. He cherished his working class upbringing. I found him endearing and funny yet a few of his activities would not have been something that would appeal to me. There was less information on his scientific pursuits and the value of his contributions than I thought there would be still it was a fun read over all.

Can't get enough of reading about this man! A brilliant thinker and a real down to Earth human. Also see the videos of him saying a lot of what is in this book (on YouTube-of course!) so you can see and hear him. I found him quite amazing. His love of learning and enthusiasm is contagious!

Feynman is one of the greatest scientists, life philosophers, human being that has ever lived.

Mostly the written ramblings of Feynman, often heard previously in his many videos/interviews that can be found on You Tube. Lots of his "books" seem to re-presentations of material found almost verbatim in other published works or from interviews/lectures.

If this was the first read of Richard Feynman book, it would be 5 stars. If you if read any of the other books by or about Mr. Feynman you will find many of the chapters were already published and there are a lot of duplicates in this book.

Great for Scientists or Feynman fans. I'm both.

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