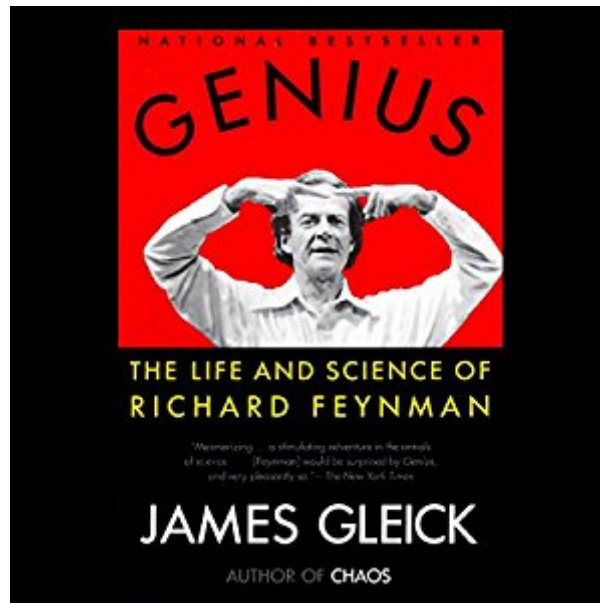




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Genius: The Life And Science Of Richard Feynman



Synopsis

From the author of the national best seller *Chaos* comes an outstanding biography of one of the most dazzling and flamboyant scientists of the 20th century that "not only paints a highly attractive portrait of Feynman but also . . . makes for a stimulating adventure in the annals of science." (The New York Times).

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a very long book, but totally intriguing the whole way. When I had a year of physics in college, I had to use Feynman's book as a textbook. I thought it was a terrible textbook. It was terrible because I could not think like Feynman. I needed examples to use the tools of physics, not understand everything in its most fundamental form. I have always wondered about Feynman, and now I know from reading this book. He was amazing and all curious people should read about his life and accomplishments and methods.

From the minute I started reading this book, I couldn't put it down. James Gleick gives a comprehensive view of Richard Feynman's life as a scientist and a person, showing even his not so glamorous side. The book explains how Feynman gradually accomplished most of his important contributions to physics and to science, sometimes spending a lot of time explaining as best as possible some of the complex science behind Feynman and other geniuses' work. If you are looking for a watered-down account about Dick Feynman's life as a "bongo player" and his excentricities, this

is not the book for you. This book is about a scientific genius, and as such, it is heavy on physical and mathematical concepts. Great reading for any one interested in pursuing or already in a career in science and research. A great example of how a creative mind works in an unconventional but persistent manner, without ever losing focus on his mission or compromising his beliefs.

Great book written by James Gleick, interesting to know that he never actually met Richard Feynman, but he provides a detailed account of Feynman's life. He starts at Far Rockaway and goes through the end at Cal Tech with everything in between, including the fascinating time at Los Alamos. Gleick details all his research and first hand accounts of Feynman's life through his close friends and family. Really enjoyed the read, looking forward to reading all Gleick's books.

A great book telling us how Feynman was different and why history judged him a genius. Feynman's two autobiographical best sellers were somewhat misleading in that one's memory of his accomplishment during the Manhattan Project after reading those books tends to be about trivial safe cracking and as Space Shuttle detective rather than the cutting edge problem solving he did as one of the leading theorists of the atomic bomb project. This book tells us about his Manhattan contribution and about his incredible ability to "see" faults in complex mathematical equations almost by intuition and to be able to think these things through with amazing rapidity in the pre-computer age. The 2nd half of the book is about post war physics and the quantum revolution and Feynman's place in the picture. I still have a vague understanding of Quantum Physics but now it is better understanding the flow of the development of scientific thought and discovery on the subject, and also the personalities and contributors involved. A great man and book.

As a retired teacher of high school physics, I found the physics part of this book sometimes over my head but often made me remember things. I enjoyed having a refresher of things. This man was truly an amazing man and continued to make a difference up until the time of his death. He was truly a genius. For folks who like science and the people who have made inroads in our knowledge of it, this is an excellent choice.

Great book about an amazing guy. What an interesting life he had. The book kept my interest throughout. It had adequate technical detail, not enough to understand the research areas that Feynman worked in, but enough to pique my curiosity to want to learn more. I would give this book 4.5 stars if I could!

An interesting book, but much of it recounts problems in physics and Feynman's solutions. Unless a reader is well educated in mathematics and physics, these sections will be impossible to understand.

Genius by James Gleick March 31, 2015 Ed. note: response to request for evaluation of book I went through college hearing stories about Richard Feynman. Stories of his personal and professional life that intrigued me. After reading American Prometheus, a biography of J. Robert Oppenheimer in which Richard Feynman was frequently mentioned, I decided it was time to learn more about Feynman. The book can be tedious in some places but overall, I thought "Genius" to be excellent. It's well written by an author who must have a science background; James Gleick combined Feynman science and personal life into a portrait of a man that certainly had his foibles but was also brilliant. I recommend the book to anyone with an interest in science and history.

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