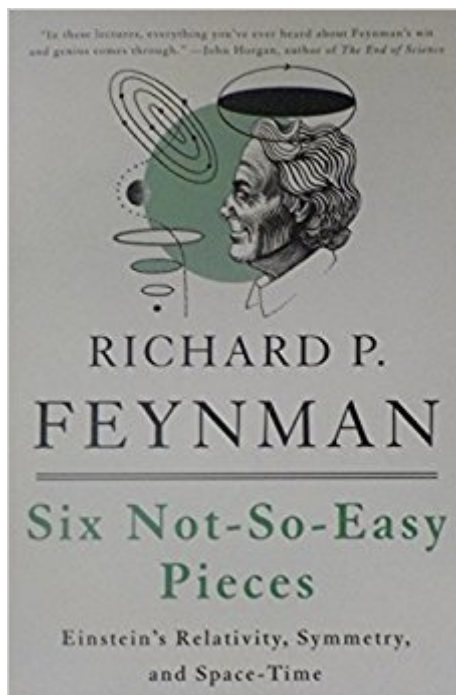




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Six Not-So-Easy Pieces: Einstein's Relativity, Symmetry, And Space-Time



Synopsis

It was Feynman's outrageous and scintillating method of teaching that earned him legendary status among students and professors of physics. From 1961 to 1963, Feynman delivered a series of lectures at the California Institute of Technology that revolutionized the teaching of physics. In *Six Not-So-Easy Pieces*, taken from these famous lectures, Feynman delves into one of the most revolutionary discoveries in twentieth-century physics: Einstein's theory of relativity. The idea that the flow of time is not constant, that the mass of an object depends on its velocity, and that the speed of light is a constant no matter what the motion of the observer, at first seemed shocking to scientists and laymen alike. But as Feynman shows, these tricky ideas are not merely dry principles of physics, but things of beauty and elegance. No one—not even Einstein himself—explained these difficult, anti-intuitive concepts more clearly, or with more verve and gusto, than Richard Feynman. Filled with wonderful examples and clever illustrations, *Six Not-So-Easy Pieces* is the ideal introduction to fundamentals of physics by one of the most admired and accessible physicists of all times. There is no better explanation for the scientifically literate layman. —The Washington Post Book World

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Richard P. Feynman was Richard Chace Tolman Professor of Theoretical Physics at the California Institute of Technology. He was awarded the 1965 Nobel Prize for his work on the development of quantum field theory. He was also one of the most famous and beloved figures of the twentieth century, both in physics and as a public intellectual.

This book has allowed me to verify some of the concepts I thought were true, based on other books I have read but did not totally understand. Feynman does not presume that the reader can mentally leap from one mathematical concept to another without a conceptual bridge which he usually provides. His examples around how the longest elapsed time is the shortest spacetime distance are excellent. His explanations of time dilation due to speed and gravity are very clear. I really like this book. The subjects in this book can be understood by anyone who has some physics and math background but it is not going to work for someone who has no background or has no intention of taking some time to ponder and study.

If you took math at a good science or engineering university, you'll be able to follow the math here (maybe not actually do it....but be able to follow it). If not, I think you'll still learn a lot.

these essays offer fascinating views into Feynman's approach to learning and knowledge. They also provide wonderful presentations of phenomena that at some levels are simple but at other levels wonderfully subtle and complex. they are occasionally a little out of date, but Feynman's insights to what we know will never be out of date.

Book arrived in the time Stated and was also as stated ,it was used. The book was used but I don't think it was read by many People.

The title says it all, as this needs much more in-depth thought to understand

Though the title implies it, this book is not really a sequel to the Six Easy Pieces. They can be read separately. It treats some of the concepts centered around Special and General Relativity that revolutionized physics near the turn of the century. It would be impossible to find another book that can dive so deeply into topics such as symmetry and space-time, while bypassing formalism and exposing the fundamental ideas and significance in every-day terms. The delivery is in lecture form, and while that makes it more authentic and real, the fact that this is a book and the reader is not really in a lecture, makes it a little awkward. One often gets the feeling that one had to be there to get the full benefit. There is little attempt at explaining the historical context and other niceties and focus is solely on the concepts themselves. One needs to have at least college level math background to follow the derivations. Feynman has done a phenomenal job in reducing such complex concepts into digestable pieces of conversation. There is no abstraction, everything is

quantified. I especially enjoyed the chapter Curved Space, as I had never seen it treated so intimately. The self consistency of all these topics and how they are interrelated is elegantly presented.

the contents satisfies my interests

Although originally intended for physics students, Richard Feynman's writing is so clear, so understandable, that non-scientists can learn a great deal. One can learn the particular physics, like relativity, and one can learn also how science gets done, the essence of what science is --- as taught by the master.

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