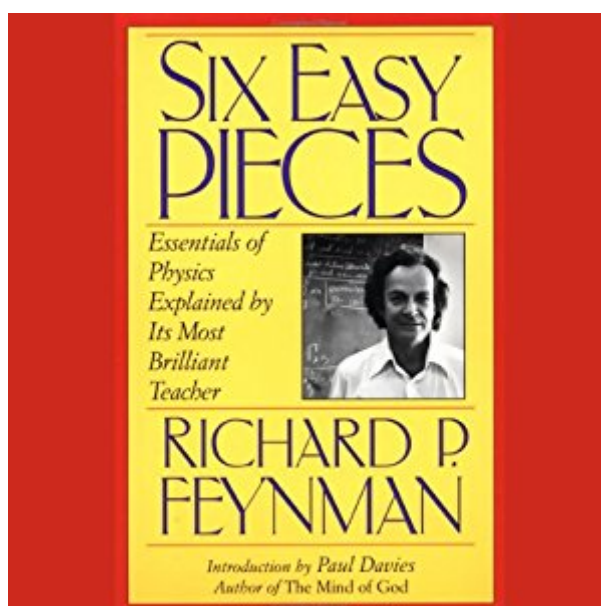


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Six Easy Pieces: Essentials Of Physics Explained By Its Most Brilliant Teacher



Synopsis

Six Easy Pieces: Essentials of Physics Explained by Its Most Brilliant Teacher is a publishing first. This set couples a book containing the six easiest chapters from Richard P. Feynman's landmark work, Lectures on Physics; specifically designed for the general, non-scientist reader; with the actual recordings of the late, great physicist delivering the lectures on which the chapters are based. Nobel Laureate Feynman gave these lectures just once, to a group of Caltech undergraduates in 1961 and 1962, and these newly released recordings allow you to experience one of the Twentieth Century's greatest minds; as if you were right there in the classroom.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Feynman shows how Physics works. Understandings of basic laws expand to knowledge of a variety of more complex phenomena.

I'm a 4th-year college student studying Maths and Econ. Well I only need to take 3 physics classes, but since I was a little kid I was fascinated by the word "Physicist..." and after I read 2 of his books I decided to look into something more academically oriented. Very clearly explanations from a true physics master. People say that after you read Feynman's books, you think you can become a physicist yourself, hahaha

Richard Feynman was one of the world's greatest scholars and educators. There are few people who can have claimed to have discovered an actual law of physics and so he stands out only for

this. His ability to take the difficult subjects of physics and explain them to ordinary mortals without scaring away the audience is legendary. These lectures provide the basic insights into the fundamental laws of our universe in a language that anyone can understand. The material is full of humour and entertaining into the bargain.

This book explains some basic concepts in physics so well that even someone who doesn't like physics might enjoy it! 'Six Easy Pieces' are 6 lectures from Feynman's complete 'Lectures on Physics', chosen for their accessibility to the general public. Feynman, like all great teachers, understands his subject so well that he is able to explain the concepts behind it in clear, simple terms. There are 6 chapters in the book, all of them generalized lectures on topics in physics. Feynman explains the structure of the atom and there is a very excellent description of charge and how atoms attract each other. I really enjoyed the chapter on the relationship of physics to the other sciences, especially chemistry and biology. There is even a section on the relationship of physics to psychology. Chapter 5 is on gravity and there is a great explanation of Kepler's laws of planetary motion and Newton's law of gravitation. These ideas are explained so understandably, I felt like I received a clear conceptual picture of what is happening. But the highlight of the book for me is Chapter 6 on quantum behavior. Feynman explains the wave-particle duality and the Heisenberg Uncertainty Principle so well that I really felt I understood the basic ideas. I am just a layman but I found I could really get what he was saying. Another thing I liked about the book is its honesty. If there is something physics does not understand, Feynman admits it, outlining the parameters of knowledge but acknowledging deficiencies. The author doesn't come across as a know-it-all, and doesn't 'talk down' to the reader, something which I find refreshing in a science book. Like any book by Richard Feynman, this one is a delight to read. Informative, honest and with that unique Feynman ability to make even the most complex ideas understandable to the intelligent layman.

Extremely well presented and a great review for old geezers like me.

Insights and elucidation on physics and physics in relation to other sciences. Feynman is the master at bringing his genius and knowledge to a level of understanding by use of analogy and making it seem approachable by anyone. It was interesting for the topic itself and the method of his teaching. I learned a few things here, some things went over my head. Feynman's quote of Gibbon "The power of instruction is seldom of much efficacy except in those happy dispositions where it is almost superfluous" was interesting. Especially since this quote is in the context of the forcing of a square peg

through a round hole in the education of Nero to be prepared for the duties of Emperor and those possible resultant problems. One must have a happy disposition towards learning as well as an element of aptitude otherwise??? I tried to follow along with what the book was talking about by reinforcing it with what was available out there like on YouTube of Feynman lectures etc. There are a lot of resources to support this book. Feynman also often goes back to how his father instilled or encouraged scientific curiosity in him as a youth (which I got from his talks available on YouTube, not this book). Asking questions, not getting bogged down in names of things but imagining the consequences/reasons for things, and in asking questions more than giving answers to spark and encourage the investigative spirit.

The contents are part of the Feynman Cal Tech freshman lecture series. There's no finer example of clear, in-depth explanation of physics as well as demonstrating a reasoned approach to solving scientific problems.

This book proved to me that Feynman is truly an expert in his field. The book appears to be outdated in several areas, but this just proves to me that Feynman was on the cutting edge of science during his lifetime. Many of the questions he asked are currently solved, but some are still beyond reach. Feynman is an excellent teacher that gets you thinking, and learning. My only beef with the book has less to do with him and more to do with me. I utterly could not read or understand chapter four. For the most part, the rest of the book required little to no background in physics.

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