



QED: The Strange Theory of Light and Matter (Princeton Science Library)

By Richard P. Feynman

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Celebrated for his brilliantly quirky insights into the physical world, Nobel laureate Richard Feynman also possessed an extraordinary talent for explaining difficult concepts to the general public. Here Feynman provides a classic and definitive introduction to QED (namely, quantum electrodynamics), that part of quantum field theory describing the interactions of light with charged particles. Using everyday language, spatial concepts, visualizations, and his renowned "Feynman diagrams" instead of advanced mathematics, Feynman clearly and humorously communicates both the substance and spirit of QED to the layperson. A. Zee's introduction places Feynman's book and his seminal contribution to QED in historical context and further highlights Feynman's uniquely appealing and illuminating style.

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

This volume, constituting the printed version of the first of the Alix G. Mautner Memorial Lectures to be given periodically at UCLA, certainly gets this new series off to a flying start. World-renowned for the liveliness and creativity of his physical insights, Caltech physicist Feynman provides another of his tours de force as he clearly explains the arcane workings of quantum electrodynamics, a theory which Feynman himself helped to establish. Starting with such familiar phenomena as the reflection and refraction of light, Feynman goes on to describe in detail the interactions between electrons and light. Although the text requires more concentration to grasp than most science popularizations, things never get out of hand. A good choice for collections serving informed readers. Thomas E. Margrave, formerly with Physics & Astronomy Dept., Univ. of Montana, Missoula

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Review

"Physics Nobelist Feynman simply cannot help being original. In this quirky, fascinating book, he explains to laymen the quantum theory of light, a theory to which he made decisive contributions."--***The New Yorker***

"Feynman's lectures must have been marvelous and they have been turned into an equally entrancing book, a vivid introduction to QED which is leavened and enlivened by his wit. Anyone with a curiosity about physics today should buy it, not only to get to grips with the deepest meaning of quantum theory but to possess a slice of history."--**Pedro Waloschek, *Nature***

Praise for Princeton's original edition: "Feynman simply cannot help being original. In this quirky, fascinating book, he explains to laymen the quantum theory of light."--***New Yorker***

Praise for Princeton's original edition: "[A]nother tour de force by the acknowledged master of clear explanation in physics."--**John Roche, *Times Literary Supplement***

Praise for Princeton's original edition: "Feynman's lectures must have been marvellous and they have been turned into an equally entrancing book, a vivid introduction to QED which is leavened and enlivened by his wit. Anyone with a curiosity about physics today should buy it, not only to get to grips with the deepest meaning of quantum theory but to possess a slice of history."--**Pedro Waloschek, *Nature***

Praise for Princeton's original edition: "In four conversational and breezy chapters. . . . Feynman, who himself gave the theory its most useful and powerful form, undertakes without one equation to explain QED to the generality of readers."--**Philip Morrison, *Scientific American***

"Using clear language, many visuals, and his own Feynman diagrams, the author presents a clear introduction to the quantum theory of the inter-action of light with matter, without mathematics but with humor."--***Physics Teacher***

About the Author

Richard P. Feynman (1918-1988) was professor of physics at the California Institute of Technology. **A. Zee** is professor of physics at the Kavli Institute for Theoretical Physics at the University of California, Santa Barbara. He is the author of *Fearful Symmetry: The Search for Beauty in Modern Physics, Quantum Field*

Theory in a Nutshell, and *Einstein Gravity in a Nutshell* (all Princeton).

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