

[PDF] Genius: The Life And Science Of Richard Feynman

James Gleick - pdf download free book

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Author: James Gleick

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Description:

If you've read any of Richard Feynman's wonderful autobiographies you may think that a *biography* of Feynman would be a waste of your time. Wrong! Gleick's *Genius* is a masterpiece of scientific biography--and an inspiration to anyone in pursuit of their own fulfillment as a person of genius. Deservedly nominated for a National Book Award, underservedly passed over by the committee in the face of tough competition, and very deservedly a book that you must read. --This text refers to the edition.

From Publishers Weekly It would be hard to tell personal stories about the late Nobelist Feynman (1918-1988) better than the subject himself did in *What Do You Care What Other People Think?* To his credit, Gleick does not try. Rather, he depicts Feynman's "curious character" in its real context:

the science he helped develop during physics' most revolutionary era. Fans of Feynman's own bestseller, "Surely You're Joking, Mr. Feynman! , " won't be disappointed by his colleagues' recollections of his reckless obsession with doing science (a grad-school dorm neighbor once opened Feynman's door to find him rolling on the floor as he worked on a problem); but the anecdotes punctuate an expanded account of Feynman the visceral working scientist, not Feynman the iconoclast. This biography wants to measure both the particle and the wave of 20th-century genius--Feynman's, Julian Schwinger's, Murray Gell-Mann's, and others'--in the quantum era. Gleick seems to have enjoyed the cooperation of Feynman's family plus that of a good many of his colleagues from the Manhattan Project and the Challenger inquiry (in which Feynman played a scene-stealing role), and he steadily levies just enough of the burden of Feynman's genius on the reader so that the physicist remains, in the end, a person and not an icon of science. A genius could not hope for better. Gleick is the author of *Chaos: The Making of A New Science*.
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