



# The Pleasure of Finding Things Out: The Best Short Works of Richard P. Feynman (Helix Books)

By Richard P. Feynman

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## Editorial Review

### Amazon.com Review

Why do we do science? Beyond altruistic and self-aggrandizing motivations, many of our best scientists work long hours seeking the electric thrill that comes only from learning something that nobody knew before. *The Pleasure of Finding Things Out*, a collection of previously unpublished or difficult-to-find short works by maverick physicist Richard Feynman, takes its title from his own answer. From TV interview transcripts to his acceptance speech for the Nobel Prize, we see his quick, sharp wit, his devotion to his work, and his unwillingness to bow to social pressure or convention. It's no wonder he was only grudgingly admired by the establishment during his lifetime--read his "Minority Report to the Space Shuttle *Challenger Inquiry*" to see him blowing off political considerations as impediments to finding the truth.

Feynman had a fantastic sense of humor, and his memoirs of his Manhattan Project days roil with fun despite his later misgivings about nuclear weapons. Though one or two pieces are a bit hard to follow for the nontechnical reader, for the most part the book is easygoing and engaging on a personal rather than a scientific level. Freeman Dyson's foreword and editor Jeffrey Robbins's introductions to each essay set the stage well and are respectful without being worshipful. Though Feynman has been gone now for many years, his work lives on in quantum physics, computer design, and nanotechnology; like any great scientist, he asked more questions than he answered, to give future generations the pleasure of finding things out. --*Rob Lightner*

### From Publishers Weekly

A Nobel-winning physicist, inveterate prankster and gifted teacher, Feynman (1918-1988) charmed plenty of contemporary and future scientists with accounts of his misadventures in the bestselling *Surely You're Joking, Mr. Feynman!* and explained the fundamentals of physics in (among other books) *Six Easy Pieces*. Editor Jeffrey Robbins's assemblage of 13 essays, interviews and addresses (only one of them new to print) will satisfy admirers of those books and other fans of the brilliant and colorful scientist. Best known among the selections here is certainly Feynman's "Minority Report to the Challenger Inquiry," in which the physicist explained to an anxious nation why the Space Shuttle exploded. The title piece transcribes a wide-ranging, often-autobiographical interview Feynman gave in 1981; an earlier talk with *Omni* magazine has the author explaining his prize-winning work on quantum electrodynamics, then fixing the interviewer's tape recorder. Other pieces address the field of nanotechnology, "The Relation of Science and Religion" and Feynman's experience at Los Alamos, where he helped create the A-bomb (and, in his spare time, cracked safes). Much of the work here was originally meant for oral delivery, as speeches or lectures: Feynman's talky informality can seduce, but some of the pieces read more like unedited tape transcripts than like science writing. Most often, however, Feynman remains fun and informative. Here are yet more comments, anecdotes and overviews from a charismatic rulebreaker with his own, sometimes compelling, views about what science is and how it can be done. (Oct.)

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### From Library Journal

It is an ironic twist of fate that Feynman the iconoclast has become a 20th-century icon. Feynman has a large and devoted following not because of his famous hijinks, or his skill as a bongo drum performer, or even his Nobel Prize in quantum electrodynamics. Feynman became an icon because he was a man of great integrity who did physics because it was fun. This collection of 13 short works is a pleasure to read. The editor has chosen not to correct any of Feynman's grammar or idiosyncratic phraseology. Intended for a general

audience, these lectures and presentations cover a wide range of topics, including his early life, philosophy, religion, nanotechnology, the future of computing, Los Alamos, fun with science, science and society, and the Challenger disaster. Recommended for public as well as academic institutions. A James Olson, Northeastern Illinois Univ. Lib., Chicago  
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## Users Review

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#### Melanie Ratcliff:

The book The Pleasure of Finding Things Out: The Best Short Works of Richard P. Feynman (Helix Books) has a lot of information on it. So when you check out this book you can get a lot of profit. The book was written by the very famous author. This articles author makes some research prior to write this book. This kind of book very easy to read you may get the point easily after looking over this book.

#### Cindy Moats:

Reading can called head hangout, why? Because when you are reading a book mainly book entitled The Pleasure of Finding Things Out: The Best Short Works of Richard P. Feynman (Helix Books) your mind will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in every single aspect that maybe unidentified for but surely can become your mind friends. Imaging every single word written in a book then become one form conclusion and explanation in which maybe you never get before. The The Pleasure of Finding Things Out: The Best Short Works of Richard P. Feynman (Helix Books) giving you one more experience more than blown away your brain but also giving you useful facts for your better life with this era. So now let us show you the relaxing pattern here is your body and mind will likely be pleased when you are finished studying it, like winning a casino game. Do you want to try this extraordinary shelling out spare time activity?

#### Denise Zimmerman:

The Pleasure of Finding Things Out: The Best Short Works of Richard P. Feynman (Helix Books) can be one of your starter books that are good idea. We all recommend that straight away because this reserve has good vocabulary that could increase your knowledge in language, easy to understand, bit entertaining however delivering the information. The writer giving his/her effort to set every word into joy arrangement in writing The Pleasure of Finding Things Out: The Best Short Works of Richard P. Feynman (Helix Books) but doesn't forget the main stage, giving the reader the hottest and also based confirm resource details that maybe you can be among it. This great information may drawn you into completely new stage of crucial pondering.

#### Gregory Sowers:

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