

Preface

What Do You Get When You Collide Two Physicists and a Cartoonist?

If you remember your college, or high school physics textbook like I remember mine, you'll agree that it was the heaviest of all your books to carry, and the most difficult to understand. A quick glance through the pages of this book – the one you're looking at now – will show you that it looks nothing like your college, or high school textbook. It's way too fun looking. Flip through it and you'll find two dogs, a cat, and quarks with three eyes. You'll see cartoon electrons, and comics about Special Relativity. Oh, and let's not forget the actual science. Explained in plain, everyday language that even a cartoonist like me can understand, co-authors Boris Lemmer, and Benjamin Bahr will show you what anti-matter has to do with bananas, and why you feel bloated on an airplane (clue: it's not because you ate bananas). They'll crack open an atom, and make you question the stability of the ground beneath your feet. They'll tell you how to create matter out of energy. They'll even have you wondering about a possible other you, in a possible other universe, reading another book eerily like this one.

As a cartoonist and writer, I am a natural wonderer, and although like many people I find physics difficult, the stuff of black holes, worm holes, and sub-atomic strangeness has always intrigued me. The opportunity to work with Boris, and Benjamin – physicists devoted to de-coding nature's biggest puzzles – has made me a better wonderer, and a shade brighter. Thanks to these gentlemen, I now understand things like surface tension... and find it as mind-boggling as dark matter. (Thanks, guys, for adding to my crazy mental catalogue of things I love to wonder about.)

If you're like me, an avid wonderer who enjoys having your mind blown by the often bizarre nature of reality – and you like cartoons – then seek no other book than this one.

So, what do you get when you collide two physicists and a cartoonist? You get quarks, quirks, and an enjoyable exploration of the fascinating realm of physics.

–Rina Piccolo

Quirky Quarks

A Cartoon Guide to the Fascinating Realm of Physics

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