



In Search of Schrödinger's Cat: Quantum Physics and Reality

By John Gribbin

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In Search of Schrödinger's Cat: Quantum Physics and Reality By John Gribbin

Quantum theory is so shocking that Einstein could not bring himself to accept it. It is so important that it provides the fundamental underpinning of all modern sciences. Without it, we'd have no nuclear power or nuclear weapons, no TV, no computers, no science of molecular biology, no understanding of DNA, no genetic engineering. *In Search of Schrodinger's Cat* tells the complete story of quantum mechanics, a truth stranger than any fiction. John Gribbin takes us step by step into an ever more bizarre and fascinating place, requiring only that we approach it with an open mind. He introduces the scientists who developed quantum theory. He investigates the atom, radiation, time travel, the birth of the universe, superconductors and life itself. And in a world full of its own delights, mysteries and surprises, he searches for Schrodinger's Cat - a search for quantum reality - as he brings every reader to a clear understanding of the most important area of scientific study today - quantum physics. *In Search of Schrodinger's Cat* is a fascinating and delightful introduction to the strange world of the quantum - an essential element in understanding today's world.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Part history book and part remedial physics text for those who lost interest when the equations started getting unintuitive, *In Search of Schrödinger's Cat* explains quantum physics in a way that's not only clear, but also enjoyable.

Gribbin opens with the subjects that most physics professors have just started to examine at the end of the semester: The mysterious character of light, the valence concept in Nils Bohr's atomic model, radioactive decay, and the physics of life-defining DNA all get clear, comprehensive, and witty coverage. This book reveals the beauty and mystery that underlies everything in the universe.

Does this book claim to explain quantum physics without math? No. Math is too central to physics to be bypassed. But if you can do basic algebra, you can understand the equations in *In Search of Schrödinger's Cat*. Gribbin is the physics teacher everyone should have in high school or college: kind without being a pushover, knowledgeable without being condescending, and clearly expressive without being boring. Gribbin's book belongs on the shelf of every pre-calculus student. It also deserves a place in the library of everyone who was scared away from advanced physics prematurely.

Review

"A gripping account of the history of quantum mechanics and a clear description of its significance - and weirdness. Absolutely fascinating" -- Isaac Asimov "Precise yet mysterious... as beautiful as a poem and as exciting as a novel" The Sunday Times "Anyone who is not shocked by quantum theory has not understood it" -- Niels Bohr

About the Author

John Gribbin's books include *The Hole in the Sky*, a survey of the destruction of the ozone layer, and *Hothouse Earth*, a study of the greenhouse effect. He has written regularly for *The Times* and the *Guardian*, and is physics consultant for the *New Scientist*. He also broadcasts for the BBC World Service and is occasionally adviser for television documentaries. John Gribbin lives in Sussex with his wife and their two sons.

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