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Most Wanted Particle: The Inside Story Of The Hunt For The Higgs, The Heart Of The Future Of Physics



Synopsis

Now in paperback: the “vivid account of what the process of discovery was really like for an insider.” Peter Higgs Particle physics as we know it depends on the Higgs boson: It’s the missing link between the birth of our universe as a sea of tiny, massless particles and the tangible world we live in today. But for more than 50 years, scientists wondered: Does it exist? Physicist Jon Butterworth was at the frontlines of the hunt for the Higgs at CERN’s Large Hadron Collider perhaps the most ambitious experiment in history. In *Most Wanted Particle*, he gives us the first inside account of that uncertain time, when an entire field hinged on a single particle, and life at the cutting edge of science meant media scrutiny, late-night pub debates, dispiriting false starts in the face of intense pressure, and countless hours at the collider itself. As Butterworth explains, our first glimpse of the elusive Higgs brings us a giant step closer to understanding the universe and points the way to an entirely new kind of physics.

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Customer Reviews

My email to Dr. Butterworth: Thank you for your book, MOST WANTED PARTICLE. - a fascinating

experience. You have provided those of us, requiring a year of college physics to advance in the medical/dental profession, with a fun-filled update of that which we have lost from one who delights us with the experience of knowing more. If I am to remain chairman of the Dunning-Kruger committee, in the United States, it is necessary for you to write another book so as to fill in the spaces since the last one. "The new bizarre state of matter, called a Kitaev quantum spin liquid is apparently producing quasiparticles that seem to 'split' electrons." - [...] Enough of this business of "seem" and "bizarre" titillating curious novices about particles thought to be fundamental. How much of a disturbance in your presentations will it have if experimental physicists back up the findings? Even now, I would assume you are having fun with this. Over another beer, of course, at a late-night pub meeting. Sure wish I could join you. I'd buy. Again, thank you for a very fun and informative read with MOST WANTED PARTICLE. --- SMASHING!

Partly technical, partly narrative. Knowing a little about the subject, I learned a lot of theory from reading the book. It's slow reading if you want to understand any of the science.

Informative. Actually a fun read. I never realized how many projects and people were associated with the LHC.

Well written and lively account of the Higgs boson discovery by a member of one of the research teams. The discussions of the physics involved and the goals of the LHC are accurate well presented. Perhaps a wee bit too much personal revelation, but not overdone. Highly recommended to anyone interested in what's going on in fundamental physics. Refreshing absence of common garbage about string theory and multiverses.

This book offers an excellent perspective on the much publicized work of the Large Hadron Collider teams leading up to the announcement of the discovery of the Higgs Boson.

This is a fine book even though it was too technical for me. I enjoyed the byplay between the scientists and his clear descriptions of where the research was headed.

This is a very enjoyable book that describes how the existence of a fundamental subatomic particle predicted decades ago was verified experimentally in 2012. The author does a great job of describing how mountains of data were analyzed statistically, and the reader need not be a

physicist or mathematician to follow his train of thought. The book gives the reader a very insightful look into how physics research is actually done in the real world, i.e., by teams of people collaborating, and very effectively celebrates this methodology.

great summation of the whole CERN project written by a great writer

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