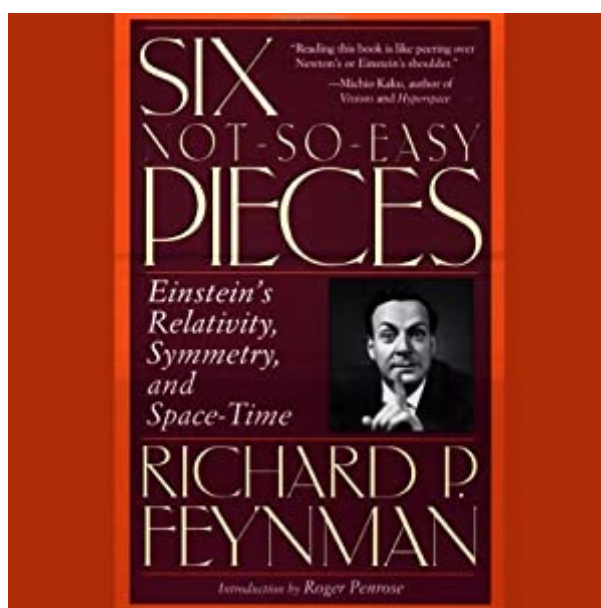


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# Six Not-So-Easy Pieces: Einstein's Relativity, Symmetry, And Space-Time



## Synopsis

No twentieth-century American scientist is better known to a wider spectrum of people than Richard P. Feynman (1918–1988); physicist, teacher, author, and cultural icon. His autobiographies and biographies have been read and enjoyed by millions of readers around the world, while his wit and eccentricities have made him the subject of TV specials and even a theatrical film. The spectacular reception of the book and audio versions of Feynman's Six Easy Pieces (published in 1995) resulted in a worldwide clamor for "More Feynman! More Feynman!" The outcome is these six additional lectures, drawn from the celebrated three-volume Lectures on Physics. Though slightly more challenging than the first six, these lectures are more focused, delving into the most revolutionary discovery in twentieth-century physics: Einstein's Theory of Relativity. No single breakthrough in twentieth-century physics (with the possible exception of quantum mechanics) changed our view of the world more than that of Einstein's discovery of relativity. The notions that the flow of time is not a constant, that the mass of an object depends on its velocity, and that the speed of light is a constant no matter what the motion of the observer, at first seemed shocking to scientists and laymen alike. But, as Feynman shows so clearly and so entertainingly in the lectures chosen for this volume, these crazy notions are no mere dry principles of physics, but are things of beauty and elegance. No one—not even Einstein himself—explained these difficult, anti-intuitive concepts more clearly, or with more verve and gusto, than Richard Feynman.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book has allowed me to verify some of the concepts I thought were true, based on other books

I have read but did not totally understand. Feynman does not presume that the reader can mentally leap from one mathematical concept to another without a conceptual bridge which he usually provides. His examples around how the longest elapsed time is the shortest spacetime distance are excellent. His explanations of time dilation due to speed and gravity are very clear. I really like this book. The subjects in this book can be understood by anyone who has some physics and math background but it is not going to work for someone who has no background or has no intention of taking some time to ponder and study.

If you took math at a good science or engineering university, you'll be able to follow the math here (maybe not actually do it....but be able to follow it). If not, I think you'll still learn a lot.

these essays offer fascinating views into Feynman's approach to learning and knowledge. They also provide wonderful presentations of phenomena that at some levels are simple but at other levels wonderfully subtle and complex. they are occasionally a little out of date, but Feynman's insights to what we know will never be out of date.

Book arrived in the time Stated and was also as stated ,it was used. The book was used but I don't think it was read by many People.

The title says it all, as this needs much more in-depth thought to understand

Though the title implies it, this book is not really a sequel to the Six Easy Pieces. They can be read separately. It treats some of the concepts centered around Special and General Relativity that revolutionized physics near the turn of the century. It would be impossible to find another book that can dive so deeply into topics such as symmetry and space-time, while bypassing formalism and exposing the fundamental ideas and significance in every-day terms. The delivery is in lecture form, and while that makes it more authentic and real, the fact that this is a book and the reader is not really in a lecture, makes it a little awkward. One often gets the feeling that one had to be there to get the full benefit. There is little attempt at explaining the historical context and other niceties and focus is solely on the concepts themselves. One needs to have at least college level math background to follow the derivations. Feynman has done a phenomenal job in reducing such complex concepts into digestible pieces of conversation. There is no abstraction, everything is quantified. I especially enjoyed the chapter Curved Space, as I had never seen it treated so

intimately. The self consistency of all these topics and how they are interrelated is elegantly presented.

the contents satisfies my interests

Although originally intended for physics students, Richard Feynman's writing is so clear, so understandable, that non-scientists can learn a great deal. One can learn the particular physics, like relativity, and one can learn also how science gets done, the essence of what science is --- as taught by the master.

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