

The Instant Physicist: An Illustrated Guide

By Richard A. Muller



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Wine is radioactive? Organic foods have more poison in them than those grown with pesticides? Best-selling author Richard A. Muller enlightens us.

Richard A. Muller demonstrated in his recent bestseller, *Physics for Future Presidents*, that he has a unique talent for delivering the "aha" moment?making difficult topics accessible. In *The Instant Physicist* he shows his ability to entertain, too, by presenting the best of the scientific curiosities he has assembled over his distinguished career. Assisted by award-winning cartoonist Joey Manfre, who has created an original color cartoon for each "physics bite," Muller will have readers chuckling while they're absorbing more science than they ever thought possible. From the surprising (chocolate has more energy in it than TNT) to the scary (even kids can make a bomb), this book contains a revelation on every page. Once finished with this page-turner, readers will be the stars of their next cocktail party.

The book consists of a color cartoon on each right-hand page and explanatory text on the left. Color cartoons throughout



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The Instant Physicist: An Illustrated Guide By Richard A. Muller Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Booklist

Muller distills information from his Physics for Future Presidents (2008) and his university physics course into a lively little book. It's simply laid out: on left-hand pages, there are brief examinations of interesting or little-known facts; on right-hand pages, there are Joey Manfre's humorous illustrations based on those facts. For example, a discussion of the importance of the greenhouse effect—it keeps the planet from freezing over—is accompanied by a cartoon of a man in a parka saying Happy? to a frozen-solid protester, whose sign reads, End the greenhouse effect. Readers will learn a lot from the book: you can outrun a tsunami; plutonium is 1,000 times less toxic than Botox; antimatter isn't science fiction; organically grown foods have more carcinogens than foods sprayed with artificial pesticides. Oh, and Muller reveals the truth behind the world-famous 1947 crash of those mysterious flying disks in Roswell, New Mexico (it's not what you might think). Very entertaining and very informative—a winning combination. --David Pitt

About the Author

Richard A. Muller is professor of physics at the University of California, Berkeley, and the best-selling author of Physics for Future Presidents. For his outstanding work in experimental cosmology, he was awarded a 1982 MacArthur "Genius" Fellowship, and also a share of the 2015 Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics for the discovery of dark energy.

Joey Manfre is an award-winning illustrator/cartoonist. He lives in Berkeley, California.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Ernestine Miller:

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