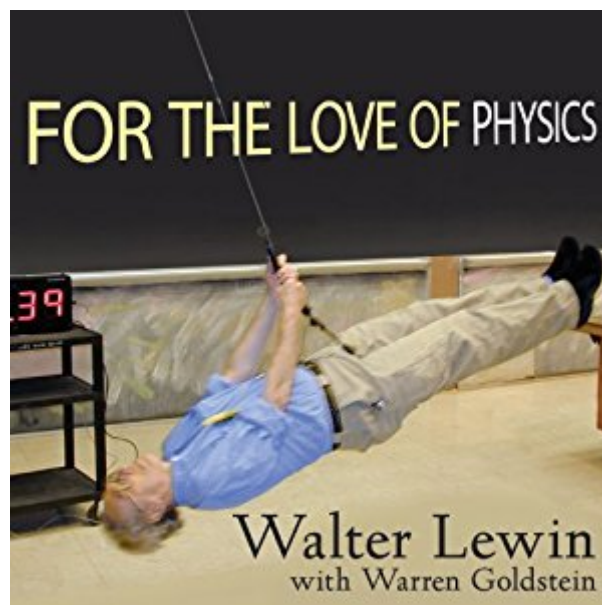




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# For The Love Of Physics: From The End Of The Rainbow To The Edge Of Time - A Journey Through The Wonders Of Physics



## Synopsis

"You have changed my life" is a common refrain in the emails Walter Lewin receives daily from fans who have been enthralled by his world-famous video lectures about the wonders of physics. "I walk with a new spring in my step and I look at life through physics-colored eyes," wrote one such fan. When Lewin's lectures were made available online, he became an instant YouTube celebrity, and the New York Times declared, "Walter Lewin delivers his lectures with the panache of Julia Child bringing French cooking to amateurs and the zany theatricality of YouTube's greatest hits." For more than 30 years as a beloved professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Lewin honed his singular craft of making physics not only accessible but truly fun, whether putting his head in the path of a wrecking ball, supercharging himself with 300,000 volts of electricity, or demonstrating why the sky is blue and why clouds are white. Now, as Carl Sagan did for astronomy and Brian Green did for cosmology, Lewin takes listeners on a marvelous journey in *For the Love of Physics*, opening our eyes as never before to the amazing beauty and power with which physics can reveal the hidden workings of the world all around us. "I introduce people to their own world," writes Lewin, "the world they live in and are familiar with but don't approach like a physicist - yet." Could it be true that we are shorter standing up than lying down? Why can we snorkel no deeper than about one foot below the surface? Why are the colors of a rainbow always in the same order, and would it be possible to put our hand out and touch one? Whether introducing why the air smells so fresh after a lightning storm, why we briefly lose (and gain) weight when we ride in an elevator, or what the Big Bang would have sounded like had anyone existed to hear it, Lewin never ceases to surprise and delight with the extraordinary ability of physics to answer even the most elusive questions.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

When people decide they should learn about physics they typically do one of two things, if they are trying to teach themselves they go to a book by someone like Stephen Hawking or Brian Greene or if they are in a class they go to a book like Serway's introductory physics text. Both are a mistake. In the case of Steven Hawking or Brian Greene they will spend too much time trying to puzzle out the meaning of physics new enough it will likely be proven wrong anyways. They are likely to leave understanding little about physics but the fact that it is complicated. In the case of Serway they are likely to spend too much time doing math that while important, is likely to chase them away from physics before they have any real understanding. This book should come before any of those. Explanations of common every day events like rainbows or pendulums with only minimal math. The only reason I say it is the second book on physics you should read is that *Surely You're Joking Mr. Feynman* is a better place to start. It gives little real explanation of physics but does a better job of changing your perception of physics. That book will give you enough excitement about learning physics to push you through the more complicated parts of this book then maybe even some of the more advanced texts on the subject.

Professor Lewin will open your eyes to the beauty of physics. This book changed the way I look at everyday occurrences. From rainbows to the night sky. Highly recommend

I can't remember having so much fun, feeling so excited and learning as much as I did reading this book!! Walter Lewin's enthusiasm for physics leaps off every page. I could sense his excitement, passion and energy with every page, and I love the feel of his Dutch accent; it made the book even more intimate and engaging. However, no reader will be simply engaged, but completely and wholly sucked in and feeling like someone just shared with you all the secrets of the universe (which Dr. Lewin actually does!). Of course you will learn a tremendous amount about physics, the world around you and the answers to a whole host of "why" questions, but I also found his enthusiasm rubbing off on me and I finished this book with a renewed sense of being more enthusiastic about life in general and vowed to look at everything with such marvel and wonder. My 9-year old son absolutely loved this book as well. Young or old, this is a wonderful book on so many levels; taking

a topic many find intimidating and making it accessible for anyone, it is Dr. Lewin speaking from the heart and sharing something truly wonderful with all of us. If you really want to see this book come alive, watch any of his lectures on MIT's website. Everyone should have a chance to experience a teacher like Dr. Lewin.

If physics has rock stars, Walter Lewin is one. If physicist rock stars can have groupies, I confess to being one. As I read the publisher's text about the book, I felt a little blush. Could that refer to me?! Truly, Walter Lewin's online lectures changed MY life. Sounds silly? Well it's true. Not only did I get very interested in a subject I thought out of my grasp, but I continued my education in physics. I "discovered" a lot of application of physics to my business practice. To shorten the story, I use physics in my business and my clients have benefited greatly and my career has blasted off. Now, the book is like listening to Dr. Lewin talk. For a fan, what could be better? The videos of his lectures might be better but they are very math intense. The book is light on the math. That's good. I do wish the book had more than the too brief picture collection about 2/3's through. I would like some illustrations to go with the topical discussions. Still, overall, I love the book but that's because I see Dr. Lewin as a sort of virtual mentor. I could never afford MIT or qualify to get in to MIT. Dr. Lewin's lectures opened MIT to me. So a physics fan, and especially a Walter Lewin fan, will love the book. I hope every one of his students will buy two copies (I did)---cherish one and give the other away. Your gift may inspire the next Einstein (male or female). The only negative? That beautiful Dutch accent, which lends itself to physics, doesn't come through in print. Great read.

I love this book. He is so so very right and so brilliant. The book is wonderfully written. Physics is around us -- it's in everything. Lewin is everything a teacher should be: a motivator, a person who gets you to ask "why" and "how" -- and he knows how to not just explain but demonstrate. Watch some of his YouTube videos. They are viewed the world over. He practiced for those demonstrations (as seen on YouTube) for hours before he exhibited experiments in class. He came from a tough background. Read the book and you'll understand. Those videos are a main reason why I bought the book. If I enjoyed the videos enough to watch them more than once...what does he have to say on paper? I wanted to know and was not disappointed and you won't be either. If you have a teen interested in science and engineering (my daughter is) -- read it as a family, chapter by chapter. It's a wonderful way to connect on something technical, share thoughts and ideas -- and ponder the world we live in.

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