

Feynman

Jim Ottovani and Leland Myrick

Reviewed by: Senou 16

Star Teen Reviewer of Be the Star You Are! Charity

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Feynman is a graphic novel that follows the life of Richard P. Feynman (1918-1988), considered one of the most notable modern physicists alongside Einstein, Pauli, and the like. The book uses a narrative style in which Feynman as character both narrates and participates in the telling of his life's story. Starting from his humble beginnings as a child and young adult with a fascination for science, the biography illustrates Feynman's struggle in college with finding acceptance and direction. After his college years, his work lands him a job at the Manhattan project, developing a nuclear bomb to end World War Two. But the piece of research that would lead to a Noble Prize would be his contributions to quantum electrodynamics and light theory.

Although learning the life story of a man so accomplished (a Nobel Prize winner!) could be intimidating, Ottovani and Myrick bring this titan of physics down to earth by illustrating his personal struggles with love, loss, and purpose alongside his scientific achievements. The colors of this biographical graphic novel make Feynman's story all the more real and relatable.

For me, this novel combined two of my favorite things: science and a good story. For those more literarily inclined, *Feynman* is the story of a complex man stumbling through life, taking opportunities as they come, and ultimately finding success and fulfillment. And to the science-minded, this novel provides a brief description of Feynman's theory of light through diagrams and quotes from Feynman's lectures.

As a point of note, the story does include two scenes with partial nudity (nothing direct, but the perspective of the illustration suggests it), and the explanation of Feynman's theory is slightly confusing (but can be skipped over without losing the story line). As a result, I would recommend this book for mature teens and young adults. This book is a vault of lessons for life, success, and happiness, and a testament to a life well lived of a great man.

Recommended Titles:

Albert Einstein: And the Frontiers of Physics by Jeremy Bernstein

Brief Answers to the Big Questions by Stephen Hawking

Classic Feynman: All the Adventures of a Curious Character by Richard P. Feynman

The Character of Physical Law by Richard P. Feynman