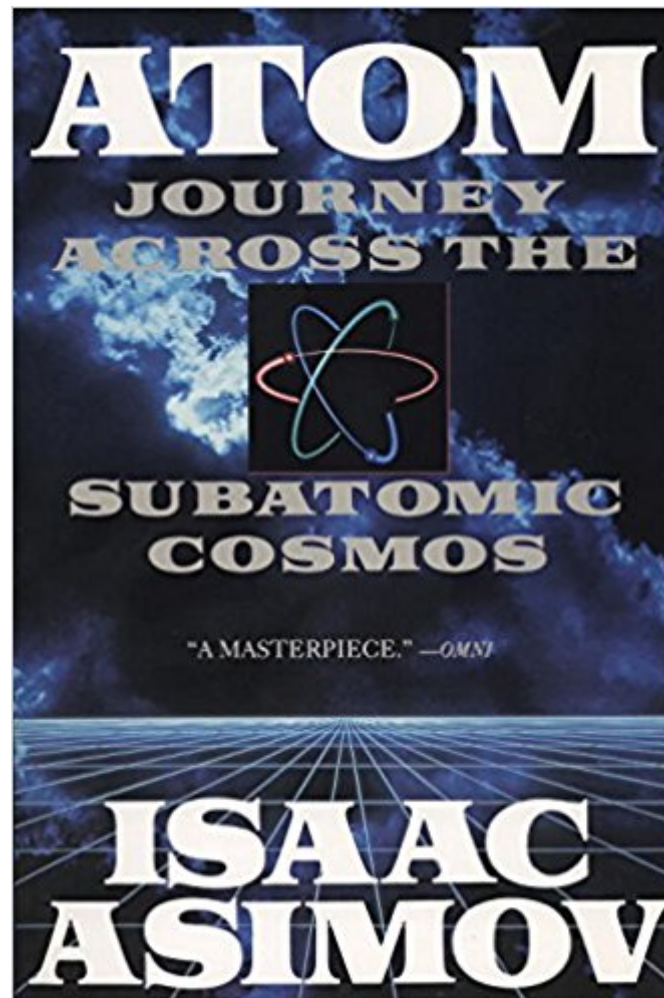




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Atom: Journey Across The Subatomic Cosmos



Synopsis

“Amazing” If you’ve been searching for a basic text on how the atom works, this is it. •Booklist “A masterpiece.” •Omni “The legendary Isaac Asimov starts what is perhaps the most fascinating of all his books with a simple query: how finely can a piece of matter be divided? But like many simple questions, this one leads us on a far-flung quest for a final answer, a search that becomes a series of beautifully structured building blocks of knowledge. It begins with the earliest speculations and investigations by the Greeks and Romans, and then, step by step and century by century, it traces the path of discovery that revealed more and more of the nature of the atom, of light, of gravity, of the electromagnetic force and even the nature and structure of the universe. Atom also encompasses such phenomena as light and electricity; the protons, neutrons and quarks that are the fundamental units of the universe; hard-to-observe “anti-particles”; and other strange bits of matter that challenge our assumptions about the very nature of space and time. Atom is the only book of its kind, by the renowned author whose genius for bringing clarity and excitement to complex subjects has made him the most celebrated science author of our time.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

It takes our best science writers, plus readers current with the whimsical new language of particle physics, to keep up with the leapfrog pace of theory and observation today. Fortunately, Asimov does his part in this report on recent theoretical physics developments that includes just enough history to add human dimension to the latest discussions of the nature of matter. Missing here are

the characteristic Asimov metaphors and asides, suggesting that, while juggling so many pure concepts at once, he chooses not to distract his readers. No matter, they will welcome this straightforward guide to the Alice-like world of down-quarks, muons, leptons and other subatomic particles--most of which are believed to exist but have not yet been seen. When information does start coming in from the supercollider, this will be a worthy book to have at hand. Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Isaac Asimov authored over 400 books in a career that lasted nearly 50 years. As a leading scientific writer, historian, and futurist, he covered a variety of subjects ranging from mathematics to humor, and won numerous awards for his work.

Everyone should read this book. It will take about a day (longer if you earmark parts you want to read again). I have read the book many times . . . and given many copies away to people whom I feel will expand their appreciation for how we came to discover many of the things we know about atoms and their parts. Truly a remarkable book, written by a man by who clearly loved the subject. The good news is, he wrote many books. I've read them all . . . science fiction included. Had I not done that, I now realize I would have missed a lot of interesting stuff. If you would like to read it but can't afford it, send me an email and I'll have send you one at my expense. I'll expect a thank you note after you read it the first time. Atoms are pretty small . . but very fascinating. The book Isaac Asimov wrote about the men and women who found ways to look and learn about them is quite amazing. I'm sure Richard Feynman found it so . . . so will you. You will likely read it more than once, and search for other Asimov books. You won't be disappointed. rhkelley@gmail.com

This book is an excellent summation of the progress made in discovering sub-atomic particles, It may not now be up to date (it was printed in 1991), but I would not forgo the learning within, or the Asimov method of presenting it. Isaac Asimov specialty was explaining difficult subjects to his readers. He did an admiral job keeping the subject matter interesting. Each short chapter is dedicated to a particle, ex. mesons, quarks, bosons. Each chapter also gives a little historical background of the search and discovery behind each particle and how it fits within the sub-atomic world. Nuclear physicists may have progressed far beyond this by now, but this is still a good book for piecing together the subatomic puzzle of particles.

An excellent review of particle physics for someone interested in the subject. Asimov is an excellent

writer, of course, and he gives good historical perspective of the accomplishments made by physicists throughout the centuries. Becoming a little dated as physics continues to march forward. But an excellent non-math review of particle physics at the high school level. Highly recommend.

I've read a lot of popular science books and the first half or so of this book was mostly a repeat of things that I've already read. But the last two chapters are amazing. He has a way of explaining things that makes it clear and interesting, and also of telling the story of the discovery, and the initial reactions to assertions. His side comments will make you laugh out loud and his explanations will help you come to an understanding of the topic.

As always, Isaac does not obviate little details that turn to be important for the understanding of the subject. I recommend this book for those who love physics. The emphasis is in how the puzzle of the subatomic world knowledge evolved and the imaginative minds that had built current knowledge. Try also "What is Quantum Mechanics? a Physics Adventure from Transaction College of LEX..

Read yrs ago, still good

Excellent

Came in perfect condition. Couldn't be happier.

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