



The Particle at the End of the Universe: How the Hunt for the Higgs Boson Leads Us to the Edge of a New World

By Sean Carroll

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Winner of the prestigious 2013 Royal Society Winton Prize for Science Books

“A modern voyage of discovery.” —Frank Wilczek, Nobel Laureate, author of *The Lightness of Being*

The Higgs boson is one of our era’s most fascinating scientific frontiers and the key to understanding why mass exists. The most recent book on the subject, *The God Particle*, was a bestseller. Now, Caltech physicist Sean Carroll documents the doorway that is opening—after billions of dollars and the efforts of thousands of researchers at the Large Hadron Collider in Switzerland—into the mind-boggling world of dark matter. *The Particle at the End of the Universe* has it all: money and politics, jealousy and self-sacrifice, history and cutting-edge physics—all grippingly told by a rising star of science writing.

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Editorial Review

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When the media announced in early July 2012 that researchers had finally confirmed the existence of the elusive Higgs boson, aka “the God particle,” physicists around the world hailed the discovery as a major scientific breakthrough. To California Institute of Technology researcher Carroll (From Eternity to Here, 2010), the event gave another opportunity to demonstrate what he does best, translating complicated ideas into lay-friendly language. In describing how the Higgs boson was detected after decades of theoretical speculation, Carroll covers a wide swath of science, from the Big Bang to quantum mechanics, as well as the thorny politics behind funding the Large Hadron Collider in Switzerland, where experiments established the particle’s existence. Along with an overview of abstract concepts like supersymmetry, Carroll more lightheartedly explains why Hollywood loves science and why the world wasn’t likely to end if the collider inadvertently created a mini-black-hole. A first-rate physics guide that enlarges our understanding of the universe we live in. --Carl Hays

Review

“The science is authoritative, yet bold and lively. The narrative is richly documented, yet full of human drama. Carroll’s saga pulls you aboard a modern voyage of discovery.”

—Frank Wilczek, Nobel Laureate, author of *The Lightness of Being*

“In this superb book, Sean Carroll provides a fascinating and lucid look at the most mysterious and important particle in nature, and the experiment that revealed it. Anyone with an interest in physics should read this, and join him in examining the new worlds of physics to which this discovery may lead.”

—Leonard Mlodinow, author of NYT bestseller *The Drunkard’s Walk*

"Carroll tells the story of the particle that everyone has heard of but few of us actually understand. After you read his book—an enticing cocktail of personal anecdote, clever analogy, and a small dose of mind-bending theory—you will truly grasp why the Higgs boson has been sought after for so long by so many. Carroll is a believer in big science asking big questions and his beliefs are infectious and inspiring."

—Morgan Freeman, Actor and Executive Producer of *Through the Wormhole*

"Carroll is a sure-footed guide through some of the most perplexing and fascinating insights of modern physics."-Brian Greene, author of *The Elegant Universe*

— **Brian Greene, author of The Elegant Universe**

"[Carroll's] writing is accessible and peppered with cultural references... but don't be fooled Carroll isn't afraid to wade into topics that have befuddled even brand-name physicists."-Wired — **Wired**

"Carroll keeps it real, getting at the complex guts of cutting-edge cosmology in discussions that will challenge fans of Hawking's *A Brief History of Time*."-The Washington Post

— **The Washington Post**

About the Author

Sean Carroll, Ph.D., is a theoretical physicist at Caltech. He lives in Los Angeles with his wife, writer Jennifer Ouellette.

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James Martin:

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