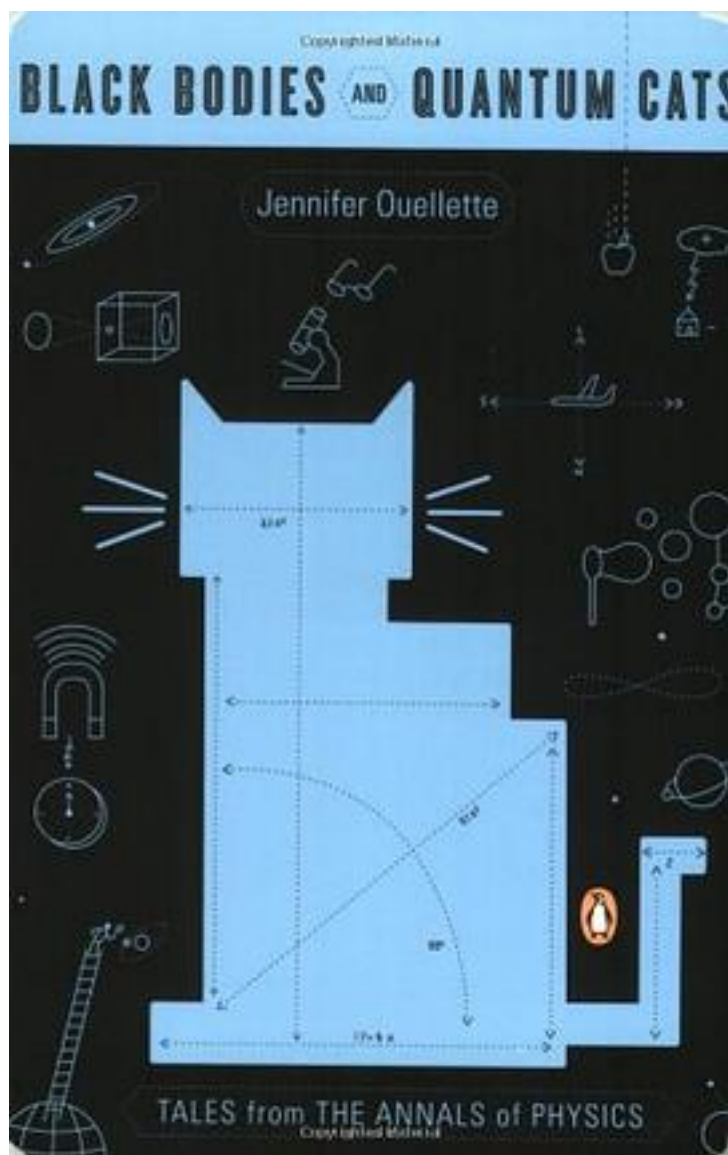


Black Bodies and Quantum Cats



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A history of physics for armchair scientists and other curious readers

Physics, once known as "natural philosophy," is the most basic science, explaining the world we live in, from the largest scale down to the very, very, very smallest, and our understanding of it has changed over many centuries. In *Black Bodies and Quantum Cats*, science writer Jennifer Ouellette traces key developments in the field, setting descriptions of the fundamentals of physics in their historical context, as well as against a broad cultural backdrop.

Newton's laws are illustrated via the film *Addams Family Values*, while *Back to the Future* demonstrates the finer points of special relativity. Edgar Allan Poe's "The Purloined Letter" serves to illuminate the mysterious nature of neutrinos, and Jeanette Winterson's novel *Gut Symmetries* provides an elegant metaphorical framework for string theory. An enchanting and edifying read, *Black Bodies and Quantum Cats* shows that physics is not an arcane field of study but a profoundly human endeavor, and a fundamental part of our everyday world.

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