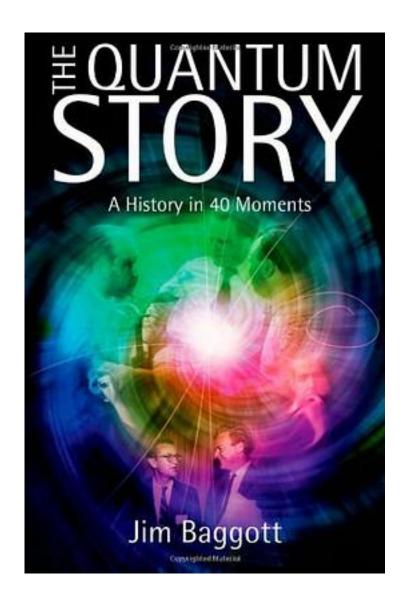
## The Quantum Story



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The twentieth century was defined by physics. From the minds of the world's leading physicists there flowed a river of ideas that would transport mankind to the pinnacle of wonderment and to the very depths of human despair. This was a century that began with the certainties of absolute knowledge and ended with the knowledge of absolute uncertainty. It was a century in which physicists developed weapons with the capacity to destroy our reality, whilst at the same time denying us the possibility that we can ever properly comprehend it. Almost everything we think we know about the nature of our world comes from one theory of physics. This theory was discovered and refined in the first thirty years of the twentieth century and went on to become quite simply the most successful theory of physics ever devised. Its concepts underpin much of the twenty-first century technology that we have learned to take for granted. But its success has come at a price, for it has at the same time completely undermined our ability to make sense of the world at the level of its most fundamental constituents. Rejecting the fundamental elements of uncertainty and chance implied by quantum theory, Albert Einstein once famously declared that 'God does not play dice'. Niels Bohr claimed that anybody who is not shocked by the theory has not understood it. The charismatic American physicist Richard Feynman went further: he claimed that nobody understands it. This is quantum theory, and this book tells its story. Jim Baggott presents a celebration of this wonderful yet wholly disconcerting theory, with a history told in forty episodes -- significant moments of truth or turning points in the theory's development. From its birth in the porcelain furnaces used to study black body radiation in 1900, to the promise of stimulating new quantum phenomena to be revealed by CERN's Large Hadron Collider over a hundred years later, this is the extraordinary story of the quantum world.

## 作者介绍:

[英] 吉姆・巴戈特(Jim Baggott)

生于1957年,英国科学史作家。牛津大学化学物理学博士,牛津大学和斯坦福大学博士后,英国雷丁大学化学讲师。葛兰素史克科学作家奖和英国皇家化学学会授予的马洛奖章得主。

巴戈特从事过多年的学术研究工作,二十多年来一直专注于科学、哲学和历史类主题写作。著有《量子空间:通往万物理论的新途径》《希格斯:上帝粒子的提出与发现》《完美的对称:富勒烯的意外发现》《原子:物理学界的第一次大战和原子弹秘史,1939—1949》等书籍,并在《新科学人》《自然》等顶尖科学刊物上发表文章。

2013年,巴戈特在摩根·弗里曼主持的"穿越虫洞"科学系列节目中首次亮相,之后 多次参与英国和美国科学广播节目的录制,致力于科学普及。

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十年前读第一本哲人石,讲的是富勒烯,没觉得写得多好.今天读这个作者的量子故事,依旧.
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