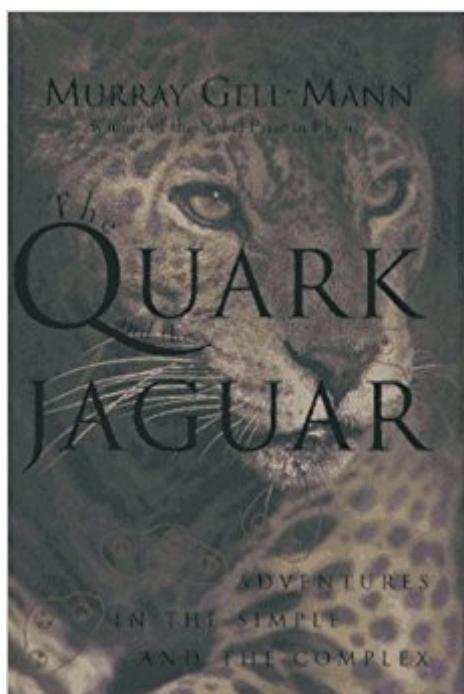


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The Quark And The Jaguar: Adventures In The Simple And The Complex



Synopsis

A Nobel Prize-winning physicist discusses the science of simplicity and complexity, describing the intricate interrelationships that exist in nature between the simple (a quark in an atom) and the complex (the jaguar prowling its jungle environment). 25,000 first printing.

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Customer Reviews

In this sweeping synthesis, Nobel Prize-winning physicist Gell-Mann ponders the universe's mix of simplicity and complexity, regularity and randomness, as he ranges from quarks (the fundamental subatomic particles which he discovered) to complex adaptive systems like bacteria developing resistance to antibiotics, mobile robots, jaguars, and people interacting with and learning from their environment. Along with often technical chapters on information theory, time, biological evolution and the workings of the subatomic zoo of particles, Gell-Mann devotes special attention to superstring theory, the first viable candidate in physicists' search for a grand unified theory encompassing all the elementary particles and forces. Stressing the urgent need to control population and to preserve biological and cultural diversity, he advocates a multidisciplinary research agenda geared toward a sustainable future for the human race and the biosphere.

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Gell-Mann, a Nobel Prize-winning theoretical physicist and a pioneer in the science of complexity, here examines that important concept, focusing on complex adaptive systems. Such systems are

capable of learning and are able to adapt or evolve successfully. The intricate processes used by a child to learn a language, for example, constitute a complex adaptive system, as do the processes used by bacteria to develop resistance to drugs. These systems provide a context or framework for a stimulating discussion of quantum mechanics and the unified theory. Gell-Mann also explores topics such as natural selection, species diversity, and the evolution of human culture in relation to complex adaptive systems. While the topics are technical in nature, Gell-Mann's presentation is clear and will be readily understood by scholars and informed lay readers. Recommended for academic and larger public libraries. Donald G. Frank, Harvard Univ., Cambridge, Mass. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Gell-Mann's "The Quark and the Jaguar: Adventures in the Simple and the Complex" is a fascinating book. Included is the best (simple) explanation of quarks and sub-atomic particle physics that I have ever read. If you are interested in understand quarks (and the field of quantum mechanics and superstrings), you should read this book by the Nobel Laureate who discovered (and named) them. But the book has a lot more to it. There are chapters on evolution, language acquisition, science, time, superstition, and complex adaptive systems. The author is opinionated and fun to read.

"The Quark and the Jaguar" is Nobel laureate Murray Gell-Mann's exploration of the relationship between the basic laws of physics and complex adaptive systems. As one of the discoverers of the quark, a basic sub atomic particle, Gell-Mann extrapolates from the basic laws governing all matter to the evolution of complex systems and the evolution of individuality, adaptability, and the interactive complexities of entire ecosystems. Along the way, he also illustrates his point by exploring how children learn language. As someone intrigued by chaos theory but who can only understand complex mathematics verbally, I'm always on the look out for books that I don't need advanced calculus to understand. The books definitely satisfies "my Jones."

Really liked this book. You don't have to be a scientist to learn a lot from this book. I especially liked the latter chapters where he talks about our responsibility to take care of our planet. This book was written a couple of decades ago but is still relevant.

If, like me, one does not fully comprehend the details of the author's work in quantum mechanics, that does not really stand in the way of enjoying this book as an ode to learning and the spirit of

discovery. Not always a natural or fluid narrator, but Mr Gell-mann's enthusiasm and passion for the wonders of the world's workings carries the book along briskly enough.

I was very disappointed with the print quality produced by the Print On Demand (POD) technology employed by . There was no warning by that I was purchasing a POD paperback book. The author's content in the book is great but the quality of the printed text as delivered is poor. Lower case letters: i's with no dots, t and f with no cross and much worse as some whole lines of text have the upper half blank so I have to read in "context" of the proceeding paragraphs to make corrections as I read. At least half the book suffers from poor print quality. It has a printed label "Made in the USA Middletown DE 25 February 2017" on the last page. This is also the date I submitted my order., , very sad.

Brilliant writing and insight.

Thumbs Up! Great Service!

I couldn't put this one down either. I highlighted many areas of interest. My favorite was about the small little butterfly on one side of the world that could "possibly" cause a hurricane on the other side of the world. Fluctuations in physics, psychology, biology and quantum mechanics are all provided here in layman's readability. I loved it and made me want to learn more! I highly recommend this book, it is a great book to reference to later as well. You'll be finding yourself in conversations about this subject relating back to this book and will provoke conversations that could last for hours and hours, or in my case, days!

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