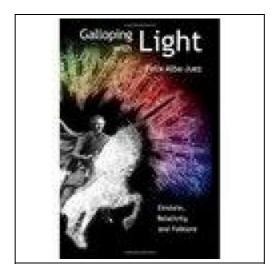
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978-1-4563. Rústica. Book Condition: New. Dust Jacket Condition: Nuevo. 0. Physics is a very interesting field to the layperson: nuclear energy, space exploration, astronomy and cosmology, just to mention a few fields. But to understand physics requires much study, so popularizations are legio, even many books are best-sellers. This book deserves to be one. A motivation for Felix Alba-Juez (FAJ) to write 325 pages of dense text in rather small font was his annoyance with the popularizing literature. Scientists . enunciate statements that . sound to the layperson as mystical or incomprehensible. The purpose of this book, he states, is to destroy the aura of mystery and incomprehensibility surrounding Relativity theory . To achieve this demystification on must either put down an effort to learn the concepts and ideas of relativity, or learn the profession of a theoretical physicist. Actually these two paths only differ in language: the first uses ordinary language whereas the second uses mathematics. What annoys FAJ is that the people who know best - the theoretical physicists - are seldom good at popularizing. Although most readers probably think that they know what is meant by mass, weight, force, and energy, perhaps also by inertia, gravitation, and momentum, FAJ devotes his first chapter to elucidate these concepts. Here and in every following chapter he first discusses the epistemology and history of the concepts, clarifying the semantics and fighting like a Don Quixote against misconceptions. Surprisingly, this approach makes an absolutely fascinating reading, a cultural Odyssey through the roots of physics. Without mathematical equations, but with clever examples from everyday life, the reader rapidly gets used to moving in different frames of reference. Soon he/she meets the Laws of Conservation of Energy and Linear Momentum and learns some spatial and temporal properties of electromagnetic radiation. In spite...



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