



Albert Einstein: Creator and Rebel

Banesh Hoffmann , Helen Dukas , Albert Einstein (Contributor)

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This beautifully written illustrated memoir is a testament to the indomitable spirit that pervaded the life & work of Albert Einstein. Unlike lengthy biographies that often founder in trivia, the book paints a coherent picture in broad strokes to capture for the lay reader the essence of the man & his science. Helen Dukas, Einstein's secretary for the last 27 years of his life, has greatly enriched the portrait not only thru her unique personal knowledge but also by providing valuable insights gleaned from the great scientist's personal papers in the Princeton archives. Many documents & photographs are reproduced here for the first time.

Albert Einstein: Creator and Rebel Details

Date : Published May 1st 1973 by Plume (first published 1972)

ISBN : 9780452261938

Author : Banesh Hoffmann , Helen Dukas , Albert Einstein (Contributor)

Format : Paperback 288 pages

Genre : Biography, Science, History, Physics, Nonfiction

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From Reader Review Albert Einstein: Creator and Rebel for online ebook

Brian says

overall this book was "eh." with the title creator and rebel i was hoping for more about his politics and aspects of his life away from physics. but that wasnt so.

however, the descriptions of his physics were easy to read. i only had to skip about ten pages of them, the rest i could comprehend the language employed.

read it if you are really into einstein (it has a bunch of nice images) or if you just have it around. there are probably better books about him and his life if you are purchasing one.

Teresa Carroll says

I enjoyed reading the personal aspects of his life. Although I was a bit lost on the science. I don't fault the book. I have a little knowledge of physics.

Raul Carpio says

La más excelente y agradable obra sobre el científico, motiva al lector a saber siempre más. Se queda un poco en la parte personal pero es muy didáctico al explicar los principios físicos y matemáticos que motivaron la gran revolución del siglo XX.

Anachronistic says

It wasn't your typical biography where you expect the author to tell you only about the subject's life and achievements but it was more than that; many scientists and physicists and philosophers where mentioned some even I never heard of. Reading about Einstein's life as a child and a teenager, going through some tough times in highschool which led him to quit it for a while than he changed school, and had to live on his own...etc. This made him seem like a normal boy but what distinguished Einstein is his curiosity, his passion for physics. He belonged to the right crowd and I guess he was lucky for that; his uncle gave him a book about geometry when he was only a kid "he taught him about pythagorean theorem before even studying geometry". Einstein truly made it to the top thanks to the environment he was brought into and this got me wondering, what if nobody paid attention to him? what if his uncle never gave him that book? what if he believed that teacher when he said to him "you'll never get anywhere."? I guess we can only imagine what could've happened.

Charles says

A fantastic biography of the greatest physicist of all time. It captured Einstein's passion, humor, and sense of artistry well. It is more of an intellectual biography than a biography in the sense of, this, then this, then that.

The only weakness is that since it was written in the seventies, the author was unable to say what impact Einstein's work is having now, and that's something I'd be interested in knowing.

Jessica says

I wanted a biography about Einstein so that I could understand his life. This book not only covered his life, but attempted to explain his scientific contributions. I was unable to understand much of the science, but I know more than I did before reading this book. I also understand his life path. I listened to this book through Hoopla.

Arun Rajappa says

One of the best biographies I've read. While reading this book, you begin to understand the deep intelligence, simplicity and humility of Albert Einstein, and come away with a sense of wonder.

Dave says

Focuses on both the man and his science, equally.

Ghada says

To put it bluntly, this is not one of the best biographies on Einstein out there.

Sure, there were some amusing stories and facts about Einstein included (just as biographies strive to portray), but they do not live up to the acclaimed "creator/rebel" part. It was somewhat disappointing.

The only thing I can think of that held my attention for more than a few seconds were the photos. There were some remarkable photos of Einstein and of the great physicists of his era. One photo in particular kept me amazed at the number of great minds it contained; it included Einstein himself, Planck, Bohr, Madame Curie, Heisenberg, Pauli, de Broglie, Compton... and other names that just about cover the establishers of the academic syllabus taught in my final year of undergraduate physics. Looking at their synchronized gazes was very humbling.

So, there was something of interest in the book after all. However, I don't think that a collection of "photos" justifies reading a "book of words". But, that's just my opinion:)

Ryan Dilbert says

The biographical parts are really interesting, a thoughtful peek at Einstein's life and mind. Too bad most of the middle of the book is scientific stuff way over my head.

Julie says

This is my first biography of one of the greatest scientists that ever lived, Albert Einstein. It revealed to me, not just the science in the man but also, the human being in him. I found his humility and rebelliousness both very endearing. His relentless dedication and passion to his work was inspirational and admirable.

This is a more or less scientific/intellectual book. If you're interested in knowing more about Einstein's personal life i.e., family, relationships, etc. then it will definitely disappoint you. It is meant to give the reader insight into the way in which he thought and developed his ground breaking theories. It does however reveal a personal side of him vis-à-vis his humility, political stances and also his somewhat tortured nature. The book also contains letters exchanged with his colleagues and contemporaries, some personal and some not.

The most interesting and nail biting portion of the book, for me, was the sequence of events, both scientific and political, that leads up to the Nagasaki and Hiroshima atomic explosions.

What made this book a not-so-enjoyable read was the fact that I was unable to fully understand the scientific explanations and concepts given of his theories such as the special theory of relativity, the general theory of relativity and so on (due to my current lack of expertise in the subject, don't get me wrong). Consequently I was unable to grasp their beauty as well. And that was the only reason I had to bring down my rating to three stars. Nevertheless I did enjoy the deep plunges into his character and nature, though relatively little, that this book provides.

So provided you've got a good hold on concepts in physics, you have atleast a liking, if not a passion, for physics and you're interested in getting to know Einstein a little better, then I *would* recommend this book. Unfortunately I only just got started with my degree in physics and that left me wishing that I had picked this book much later than I did.

Camilo says

El libro adicional a ser una parte de la biografía de una gran mente científica es una explicación de muchos

de los grandes descubrimientos físicos de la época, mecánica cuántica, teoría de la relatividad, definición de ondas y partículas, naturaleza de la luz, tamaño del universo; por tanto la lectura del libro no es para principiantes en esta materia porque sino las páginas serán eternas.

Robert Seitz says

Like hearing the story of early quantum physics from your grandpa. The author remembers the details as human events, rather than a researcher furthering their theory about an icon. Favorite lessons were personal, that Einstein didn't write an autobiography, because he thought an obituary was more respectable... what he thought and worked on is what mattered most. The prediction of particles before they could be seen, the intuition rather than logic behind his biggest theories, the modeling of an atom before it was even broadly accepted, all accessible. No math either, making this a truly public telling.

Zack says

More physics than I've ever taken in my life, but a nice insight into Einstein's formulas and life.
