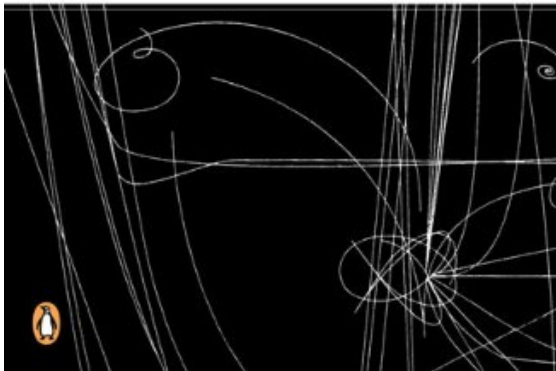


**FAUST IN COPENHAGEN**  
A STRUGGLE FOR THE SOUL OF PHYSICS

GINO SEGRÈ



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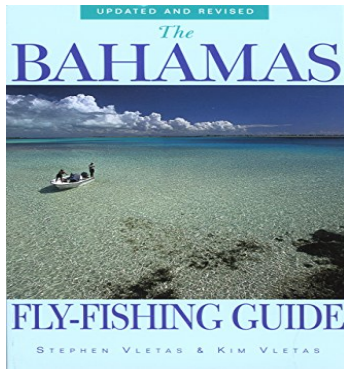
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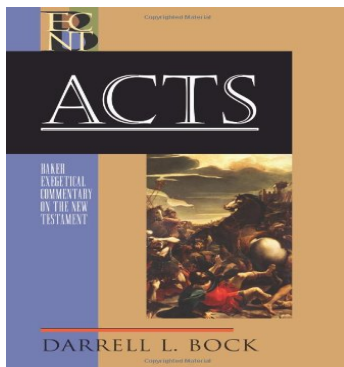
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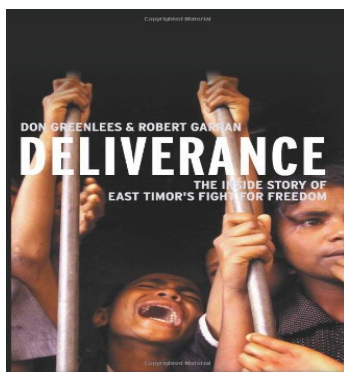
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**I loved that this book was not so technical but still gave the reader a good basis for understanding what quantum physics is all about. This book was easy to read and was very endearing toward each of the greats. It was a nice change to feel similar to the greats rather than confused by their works.**

**Review 5:**

**Fortunately, this was not the first book I read about these people and events. Knowing something already, it fleshes out the characters. The physics is covered very clearly, with no higher mathematics, and from a very well balanced perspective. But the emphasis is on the personalities and interactions of the physicists, organized around explaining the Faust skit. It is necessary in understanding the skit, not only to know the qualitative physics but the state of it in 1932. The neutron had just been discovered, but had not yet relieved the neutrino of explaining the statistics of  $^{14}\text{N}$ . I quickly read through a translation of Faust, while in the middle of this book, and it was worth it.**

**It even sheds light on why the physics developed the way it did, with each person's contribution coming from his character as well as from his intellectual ability, judgement and efforts. In particular Pauli's contribution depended on his mathematical ability and also on his tendency to use it to find errors in others' work, leading to his portrayal as Mephistopheles. Bore's preference for conversation qualitative understanding and compromise help to explain his settling for rules of thumb instead of real theory as an explanation of the relationship of quantum mechanics to classical physics, as well as his success in finding a satisfactory way of dealing with this difficult problem,**

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