The Magic of Physics

Can You Pull a Rabbit out of a Black Hole?

by

Llorrac Siwel

as told to

Prof. Richard Weiss

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MACMILLAN

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Backword

Can one learn physics falling down a rabbit hole? Even with a firm hold on your metre stick and stopwatch, your own screaming will destroy your concentration and you'll have to rely on someone else to measure your acceleration due to gravity and your terminal velocity.

Ah! — but falling up a rabbit hole and out into the wonderland of nuclear magnetic resonance, non-destructive testing, laser weapons and orthogonal wave functions — that's real physics!

When Alice, the Mad Hatter and the Caterpillar are hired by Humpty Dumpty (alias Max Wells) to pursue physics on board the research vessel *Publish or Perish* the improbable thing happened — Max Wells' timely murder right between the covers of this book.

Is this just another crime? If you turn to the appendix and examine *20 Ways to Show You're a Physicist* you may recognize yourself. If so, you'll know the killer. If not, you've a lot to learn — you took a wrong turn up the rabbit hole. This book is required to pull you back by the hare.

Llorrac Siwel

To the Reader

If you hate physics and physicists, this book will woo you into loving both. If it fails then you should consider social work or needlepoint. No physicist worth his NaCl fails to exude the arrogance of that select community responsible for the atomic bomb, laser weapons and TV.

When Captain Max Wells, scion of that famous King's College physicist James Maxwell, the Clerk, sets up the Wells Institute for Physics Research he brings together on his private yacht *Publish or Perish* Alice, the Mad Hatter, the Caterpillar, and the famed Professors Schrodemberg and Seitell to do physics for fun and profit (mostly profit). Captain Wells' resemblance to Humpty Dumpty makes him both symbolic and dynamically unstable.

Alas! Captain Wells' timely death between the covers of this book creates both a mess and untold excitement. Even Lewis Carroll is called upon to examine the facts on his visit to the Daresbury synchrotron.

Does Prof. Schrodemberg spend all his time making his wave functions orthogonal?

Does Prof. Seitell fall in love with polymers?

Can Prof. Boltzious use laser holography to make a modern Stradivarius (to fiddle while London burns)?

Can Alice pass her A levels at only 13?

And what about spider silk and fledermaus soup?

These and other scientific questions remain unanswered in this romp through the Wonderland of Physics. If you don't enjoy the journey or fail to learn any physics you may be foolish enough to apply for a refund.