



THE IMPORTANT STUFF
(1923/1986)

25 FEET.

CAN YOU
IMAGINE?



SO WHAT
DOES THAT
MEAN IN
THE REAL
WORLD?



IT MEANS A
TYRANNOSAURUS
REX IS AS BIG AS
OUR HOUSE!

YEAH, AND
IT COULD
LOOK RIGHT
INTO THIS
WINDOW.



MY FATHER, MELVILLE FEYNMAN, DIDN'T ALWAYS GET THE DETAILS RIGHT.

IN FACT HE MAY NOT HAVE EVEN CALLED A T. REX BY ITS PROPER NAME.

HE WAS A UNIFORM SALESMAN, NOT A SCIENTIST.

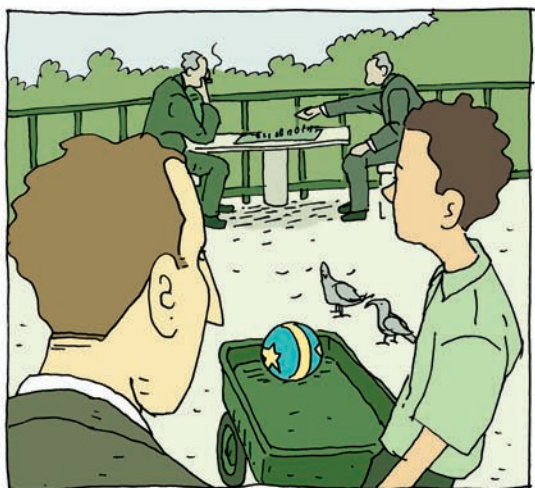
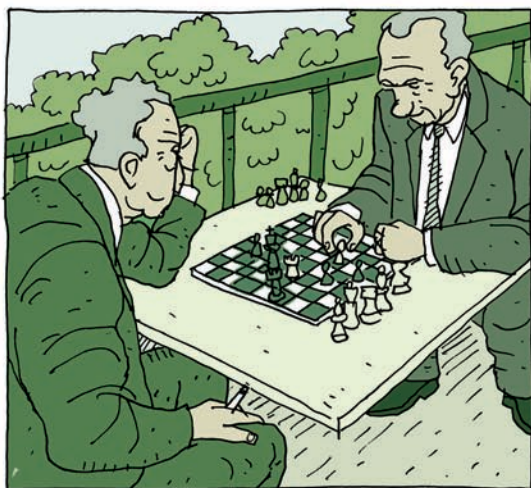
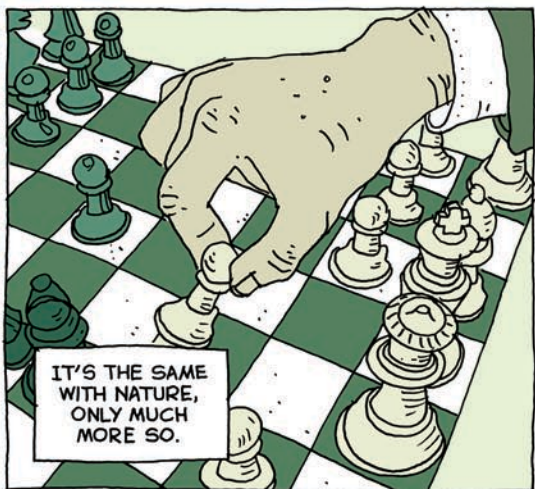
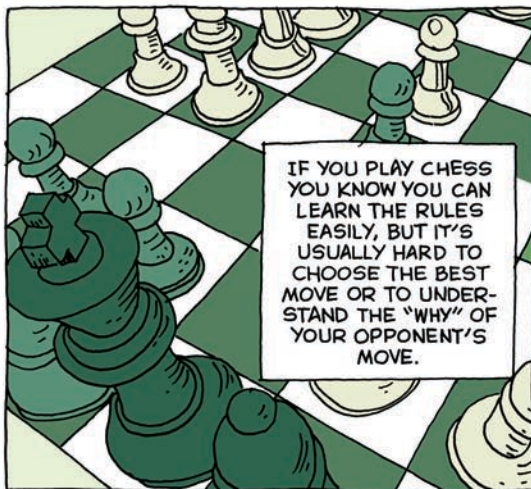
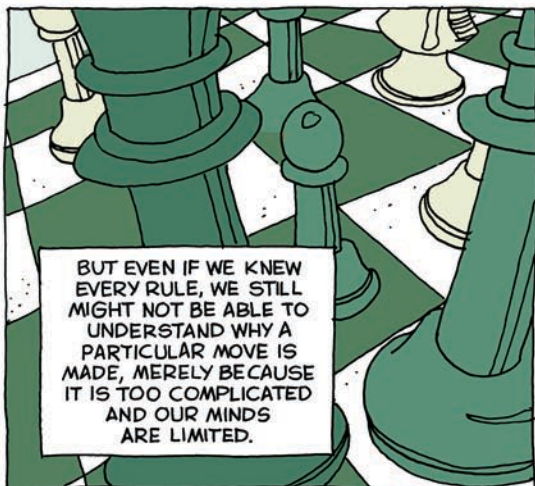
AND THEY DIDN'T STAND 26 FEET TALL, AT LEAST AS FAR AS WE KNOW TODAY.

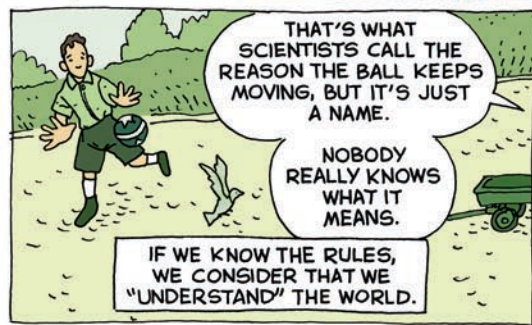
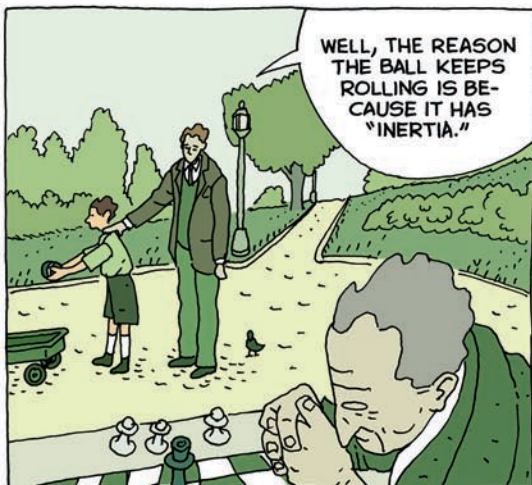
BUT HE GOT THE IMPORTANT STUFF RIGHT: HOW TO OBSERVE NATURE, WAYS OF THINKING ABOUT NATURE... THE SPIRIT OF IT.


I FOUND THAT VERY EXCITING.

FROM HIM I LEARNED WE CAN IMAGINE THAT THIS COMPLICATED ARRAY OF MOVING THINGS - "THE WORLD" - IS SORTA LIKE A GREAT GAME PLAYED BY THE GODS, AND WE'RE OBSERVERS.

WE DON'T KNOW THE RULES-ALL WE GET TO DO IS WATCH THE PLAYING.









I DISCOVERED A FEW MYSELF. IT TOOK A LOT OF WORK, BUT IT WAS VERY EASY BECAUSE I FOUND IT INTERESTING AND EXCITING.

WORTH THE RISK
(ca. 1927)



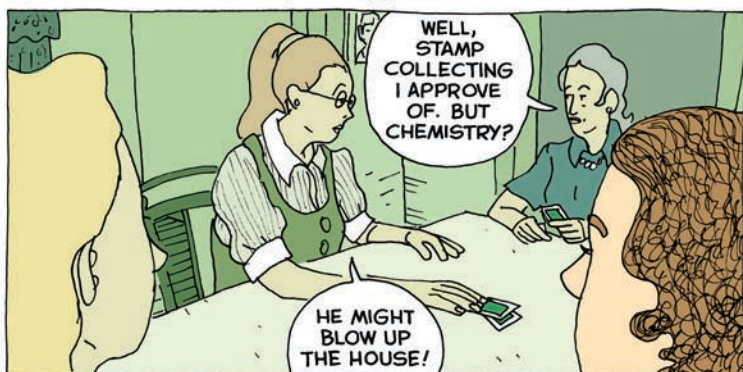
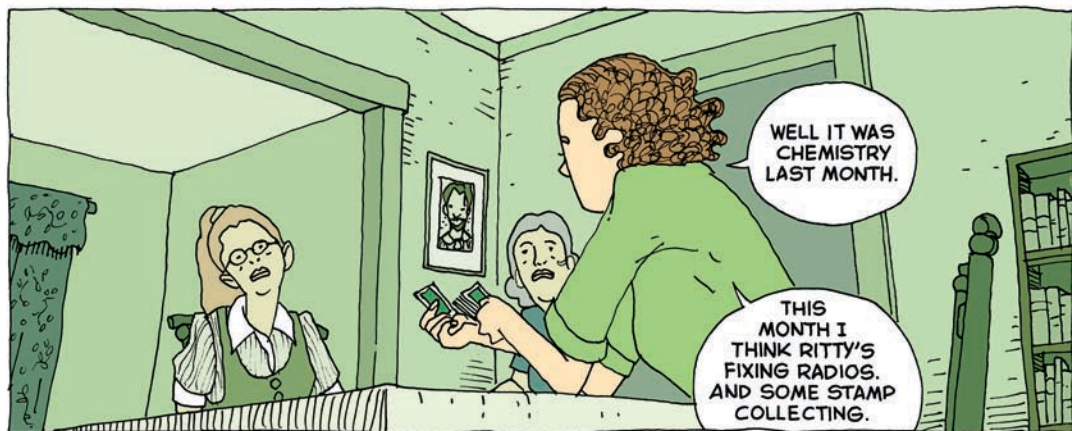
YOU SEE, FROM THE VERY BEGINNING, I ALWAYS FOOLED AROUND WITH MATHEMATICS AND PHYSICS. PLAYED, REALLY...

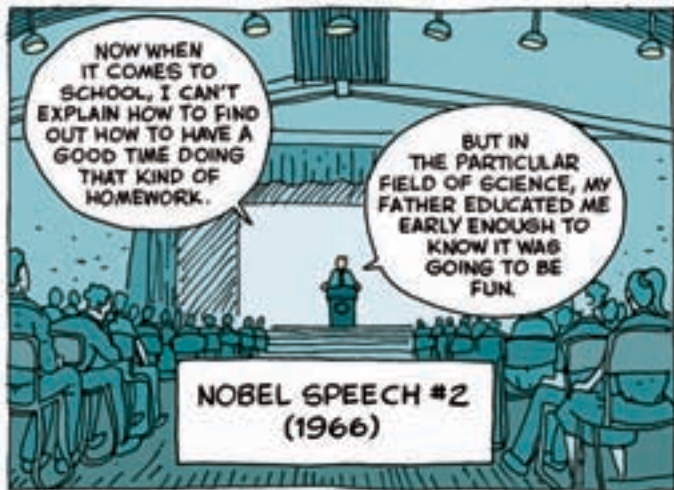


...ALL THE TIME. HE SAYS HE CAN'T DECIDE WHETHER TO BE A SCIENTIST OR A COMEDIAN.

BUT HOW COULD YOU LET A CHILD LIKE THAT HAVE A LABORATORY?

AND WHAT DOES HE DO?





NOW WHEN IT COMES TO SCHOOL, I CAN'T EXPLAIN HOW TO FIND OUT HOW TO HAVE A GOOD TIME DOING THAT KIND OF HOMEWORK.

BUT IN THE PARTICULAR FIELD OF SCIENCE, MY FATHER EDUCATED ME EARLY ENOUGH TO KNOW IT WAS GOING TO BE FUN.

NOBEL SPEECH #2
(1966)



AND I HAD A LOT OF FUN DOING IT, ALL THE TIME.

SO DON'T LET PEOPLE TELL YOU IT'S HARD WORK. IT TURNS OUT THAT IT ISN'T REALLY HARD, IF YOU'RE LUCKY.



AND HOW TO BE LUCKY?

I DON'T KNOW!



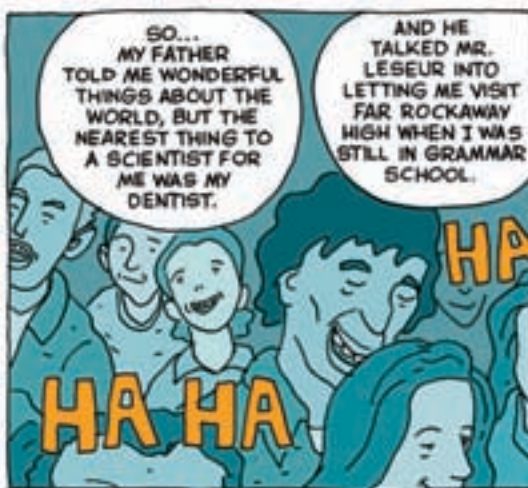
BUT IT'S REALLY TRUE THAT FAR ROCKAWAY HIGH SCHOOL HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH MY CAREER.

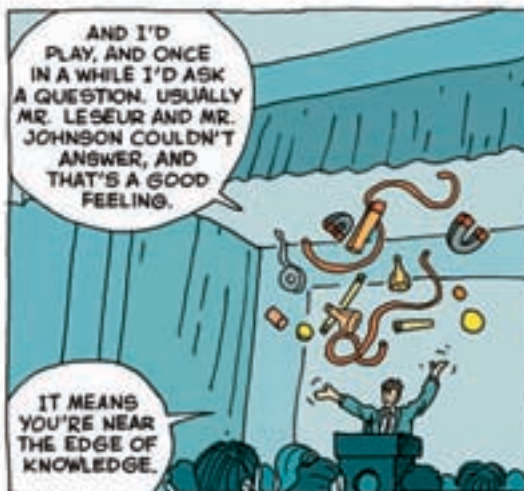
IN MY DAYS HERE, THOUGH, THINGS WERE A LITTLE DIFFERENT - I HAD A HARD TIME FINDING BOOKS ON SCIENCE.

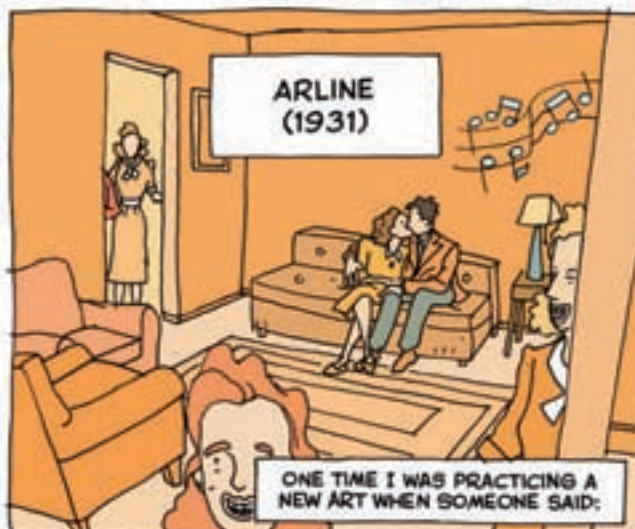


THE PUBLIC LIBRARY HAD NO BOOKS ON CALCULUS WHEN I FIRST GOT INTERESTED.

TO GET IT OUT OF THE LIBRARY I TOOK IT TO THE LIBRARIAN.







WHEN THE MUSIC CHANGES, YOU SORT OF STEP FORWARD, OR AT LEAST YOU THINK YOU DO - AND SOME OTHER GUY CUTS IN FRONT OF YOU.



AFTER SOME OF THIS FOOLING AROUND, I FINALLY MUTTERED SOMETHING TO THE GUY NEXT TO ME.



SOON ONE OF THE GUYS I HUNG AROUND WITH GOT A DANCE WITH HER. THEY ENDED UP NEAR US, AND I FINALLY "CUT IN."

WE ONLY DANCED FOR A FEW MINUTES, AND YOU CAN SEE THE CONDITION I WAS IN BY MY FIRST WORDS TO HER:



HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE SO POPULAR?





SHE WAS IN THE
ART GROUP AT
THE JEWISH
YOUTH CENTER.

AT THE TIME, I
HAD NO INTEREST
IN ANY SUBJECT
EXCEPT SCIENCE,
BUT I JOINED. HER
BOYFRIEND JOINED
TOO, THOUGH, SO
I HAD NO CHANCE.



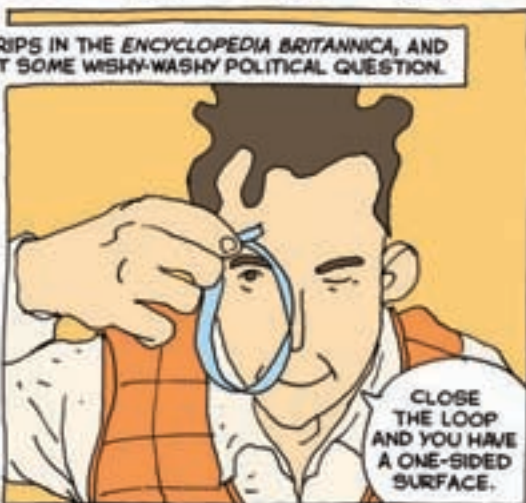
BUT ONE DAY SHE TOLD ME HE WASN'T HER BOYFRIEND
ANYMORE. THAT WAS THE BEGINNING OF HOPE!

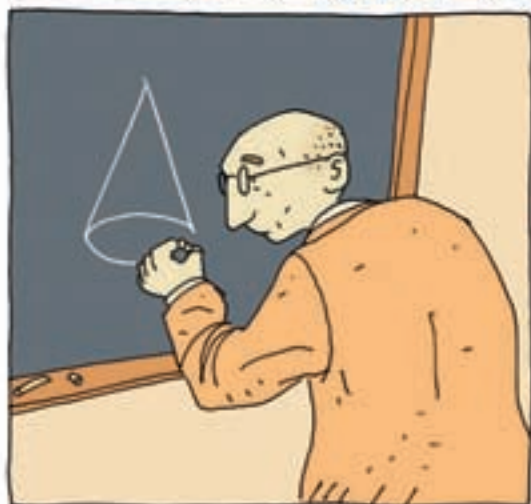
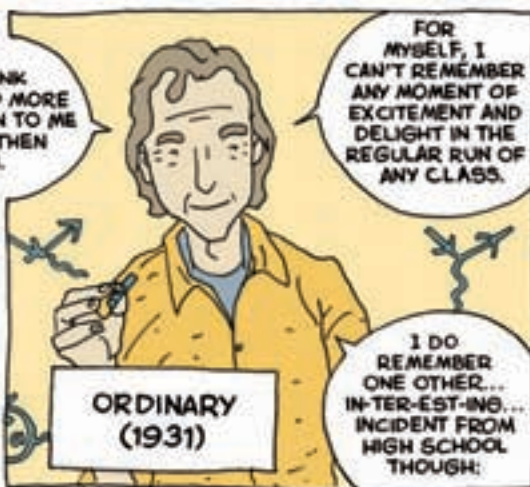
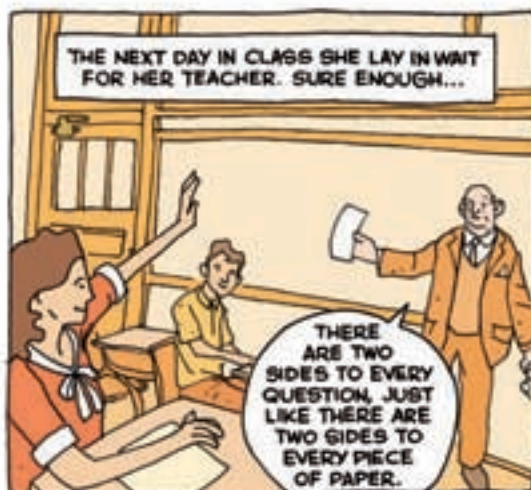


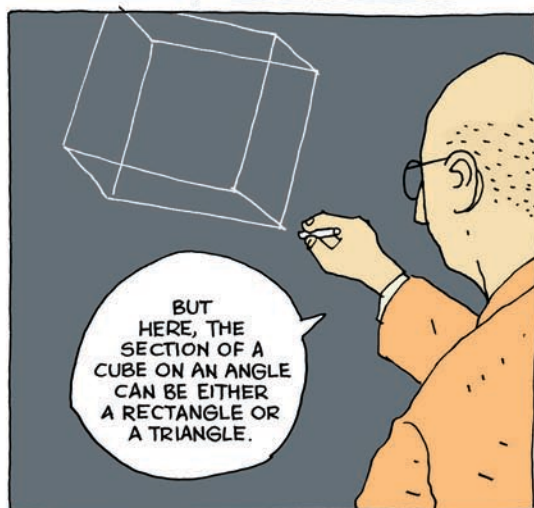
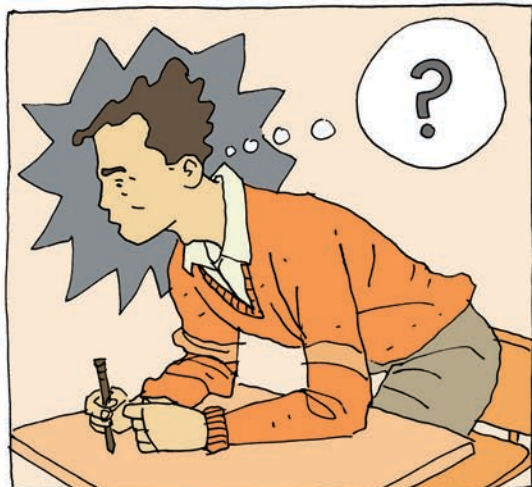
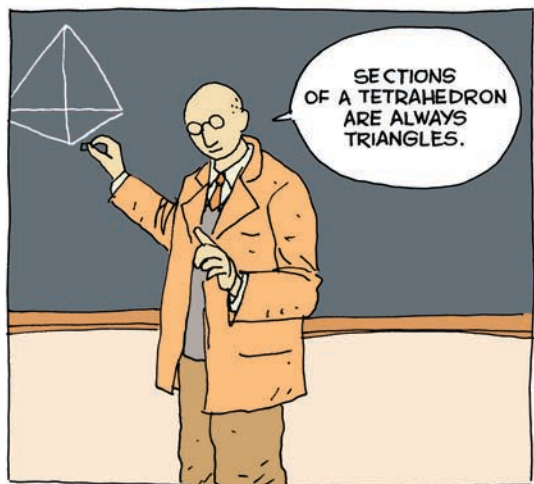
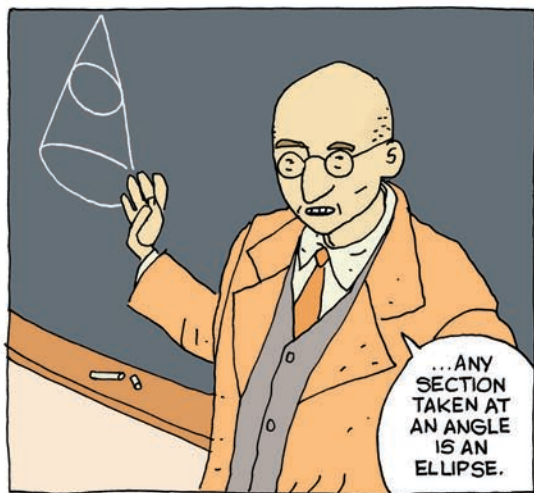
THE FIRST TIME I WENT
TO SEE HER, THE PORCH
WASN'T LIT. I DIDN'T
WANT TO DISTURB ANYONE
BY ASKING IF I'D COME
TO THE RIGHT HOUSE.

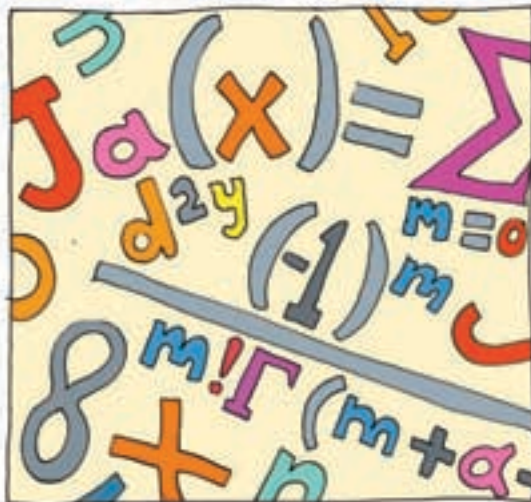
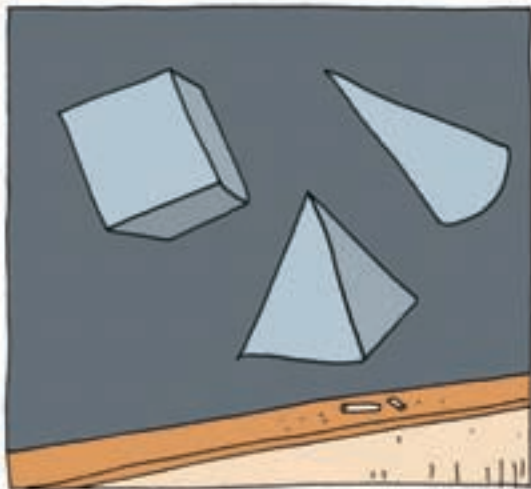
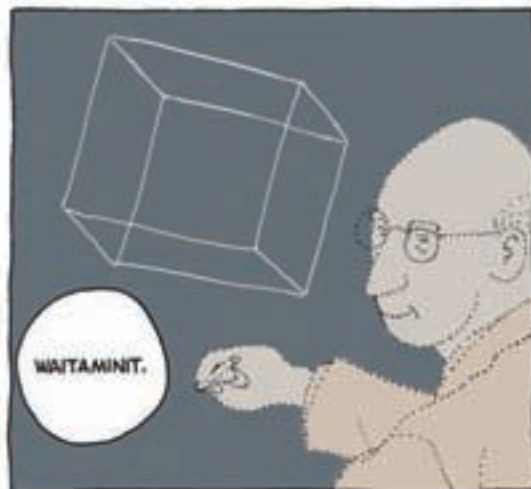


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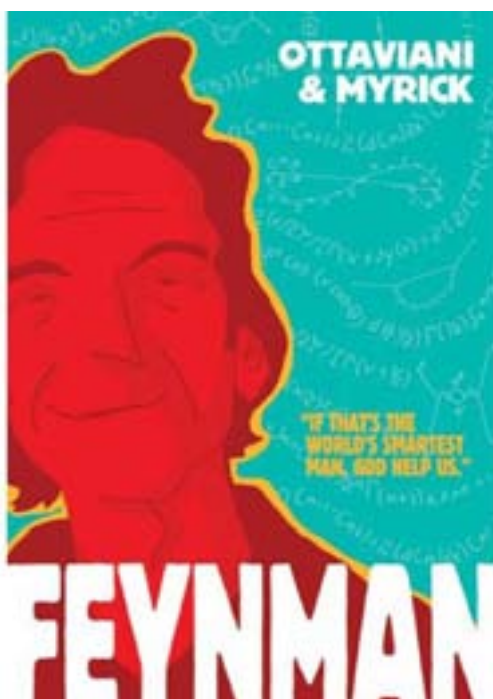








To find out what this stuff looks like to his students, how to build the first atomic bomb, give a lecture to Einstein, become a safe-cracker, try not to win a Nobel Prize (but do it anyway), fall in love, play bongos, learn how to become an artist, and discover the world, look for **FEYNMAN**, a book by Jim Ottaviani and Leland Myrick.



Coming in August, 2011

272 pages, hardcover, \$29.99

First Second Books

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