



How the Laser Happened: Adventures of a Scientist

Charles H. Townes

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In *How the Laser Happened*, Nobel laureate Charles Townes provides a highly personal look at some of the leading events in twentieth-century physics. Townes was inventor of the maser, of which the laser is one example; an originator of spectroscopy using microwaves; and a pioneer in the study of gas clouds in galaxies and around stars. Throughout his career he has also been deeply engaged with issues outside of academic research. He worked on applied research projects for Bell Labs; served on the board of directors for General Motors; and devoted extensive effort to advising the government on science, policy, and defense.

This memoir traces his multifaceted career from its beginnings on the family farm in South Carolina. Spanning decades of ground-breaking research, the book provides a hands-on description of how working scientists and inventors get their ideas. It also gives a behind-the-scenes look at the scientific community, showing how scientists respond to new ideas and how they approach a variety of issues, from priority and patents to the social and political implications of their work. In addition, Townes touches on the sociology of science, uncovering some of the traditions and values that are invisible to an outsider.

A towering and energetic figure, Townes has explored or pioneered most of the roles available to the modern scientist. In addition to fundamental research, he was actively involved in the practical uses of the laser and in the court cases to defend the patent rights. He was a founding member of the Jasons, an influential group of scientists that independently advises the government on defense policy, and he played an active part in scientific decisions and policies from the Truman through the Reagan administration. This lively memoir, packed with first-hand accounts and historical anecdotes, is an invaluable resource for anyone interested in the history of science and an inspiring example for students considering scientific careers.

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Spent a free the perfect time to be fun activity to perform! A lot of people spent their sparetime with their family, or their very own friends. Usually they doing activity like watching television, likely to beach, or picnic in the park. They actually doing ditto every week. Do you feel it? Do you need to something different to fill your own free time/ holiday? Might be reading a book might be option to fill your free time/ holiday. The first thing you will ask may be what kinds of e-book that you should read. If you want to consider look for book, may be the e-book untitled How the Laser Happened: Adventures of a Scientist can be very good book to read. May be it is usually best activity to you.

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