



Higgs: The Invention and Discovery of the 'God Particle'

By Jim Baggott

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The hunt for the Higgs particle has involved the biggest, most expensive experiment ever. So what is this particle called the Higgs boson? Why does it matter so much? What does this "God particle" tell us about the Universe? And was finding it really worth all the effort?

The short answer is yes, and there was much at stake: our basic model for the building blocks of the Universe, the Standard Model, would have been in tatters if there was no Higgs particle. The Higgs field had been proposed as the way in which particles gain mass - a fundamental property of matter. Little wonder the hunt and discovery have produced such intense media interest.

Here, Jim Baggott explains the science behind the discovery, looking at how the concept of a Higgs field was invented, how it is part of the Standard Model, and its implications on our understanding of all mass in the Universe.

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Editorial Review

Review

"A tendency towards brevity and clarity make for a handy guide to the long hunt for an elusive quarry." - *Nature*

"For those who want the full story, there is Jim Baggott's *Higgs*....His detailed explanation of how the Higgs mechanism gives particles mass is extremely elegant." -- *New Scientist*

"Higgs is an impressive volume, clarifying details, making the concepts that have been in dispute for years finally lucid... Higgs drills deep under your skin, constantly ferreting out new vistas, easily escaping our eyes. Baggott brings these-and more-together to form a solid concept of the God Particle effort-read it." -- *San Francisco Book Review*

About the Author

Jim Baggott is a freelance science writer. He was a lecturer in chemistry at the University of Reading but left to pursue a business career, where he first worked with Shell International Petroleum Company and then as an independent business consultant and trainer. His many books include *Atomic: The First War of Physics* (Icon, 2009), *Beyond Measure: Modern Physics, Philosophy and the Meaning of Quantum Theory* (OUP, 2003), *A Beginner's Guide to Reality* (Penguin, 2005), and *A Quantum Story: A History in 40 Moments* (OUP, 2010).

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