

Night Thoughts Of A Classical Physicist

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"Night Thoughts of a Classical Physicist is an artful experiment in writing the history of science. The book is a sort of prose poem, consisting of the ruminations—part memory, part dream—of the fictional Victor Jakob, an elderly theoretical physicist at a minor Prussian university, who in September 1918 broods over his career through the nights preceding his death.

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Night Thoughts is an exceptionally well-researched and thoroughly admirable work of historical fiction. 4 stars for the immensity of the author's effort in constructing the interior life of the novel's protagonist: a German physicist who came of professional age during the last great phase of his discipline's 'classical' era and is, as an older man, experiencing the dislocations wrought by the 'new physics'; an intellectual in the 'classic' mode whose entire world is being remade by various disr

Night Thoughts of a Classical Physicist by Russell McCormach

Night Thoughts of a Classical Physicist is an historical novel by historian of science Russell McCormach, published in 1982 by Harvard University Press. Set in 1918, the book explores the world of physics in the early 20th century—including the advent of modern physics and the role of physicists in World War I—through the recollections of the fictional Viktor Jakob. Jakob is an old German physicist who spent most of his career during the period of classical physics, a paradigm being ...

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Night Thoughts of a Classical Physicist — Russell ...

Night Thoughts, September 2019 PHIL 20604/STV 20154 Modern Physics and Moral Responsibility Fall 2019 Night Thoughts of a Classical Physicist Russell McCormmach (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1982) Supplements Don Howard Department of Philosophy and Reilly Center for Science, Technology, and Values University of Notre Dame

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Night Thoughts of a Classical Physicist covers four days—perhaps the last four days—in the life of sixty-nine-year-old Victor Jakob, a physics professor at a provincial Prussian university, a man...

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NIGHT THOUGHTS OF A CLASSICAL PHYSICIST. By Russell McCormmach. New York: Avon Books, 1982. ISBN # 0-380-56283-9. 217 pages. Comments of Bob Corbett.

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Overall, after reading Night Thoughts more than three times over about 25 years, and having taught it in a history of science course, it still comes to mind, and always with a sense of the sadness it so effectively conveys.

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Analyzes reviews of Russell McCormach's novel, "Night Thoughts of a Classical Physicist," considering reviews in scientific professional journals and more typical review outlets. Draws conclusions about the usefulness of the novel in history of science courses and other courses focusing on critical inquiry and modes of thought. (AYC)

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