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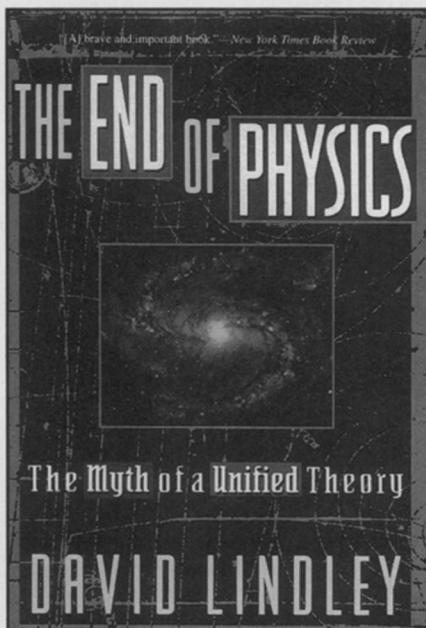


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For more than a century physicists have hoped that they were closing in on the Holy Grail of modern science: a unifying theory that would make sense of the entire physical world. *The End of Physics* is a history of the attempts to find such a "theory of everything," a forceful argument that one will never be found, and a warning that the compromises necessary to produce a final theory may well undermine the rules of doing good science.

At the heart of Lindley's story is the rise of the particle physicists and their attempts to reach far out into the cosmos for a unifying theory. Working beyond the grasp of the largest telescopes or the most powerful particle accelerators, and unable to subject their findings and theories to experimental scrutiny, they have moved into a world governed entirely by mathematical and highly speculative theorizing.

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cusses why particle physicists have become obsessed with cosmology. Finally, he charges that if physicists yield to the temptation to create a theory of everything derived from untested — and untestable — assumptions, the field will retreat from the high ground of science, becoming instead a modern mythology. This would surely mean the end of physics as we know it. — from *Basic Books*

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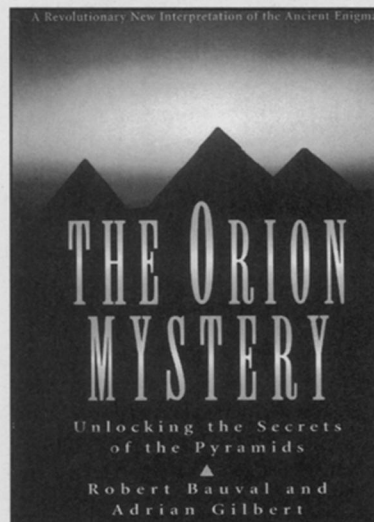
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