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The desire to discover the true essence of life drove not only Goethe's Faust, but also many an eminent physicist. At one time, nature could be comprehended within clear laws, but it suddenly became unpredictably erratic, with atoms performing mysterious quantum leaps. Well-known science historian Ernst Peter Fischer tells the fascinating story of quantum physics based on pointed portraits of selected research scientists such as Max Planck, Werner Heisenberg, Richard P. Feynman and "Mr. Beam", Anton Zeilinger. It becomes clear that the initial shock has given way to enthusiasm about the benefits that quantum physics can yield. A major piece of science history about a mysterious natural phenomenon.

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Prof. Ernst Peter Fischer, born in 1947 in Wuppertal, teaches history of science at the University of Konstanz, and is a science journalist for various publications including *GEO*, *Bild der Wissenschaft* and *FAZ*. He has published numerous successful non-fiction books, including *Die kosmische Hintertreppe* (Backstairs to the Universe), *Der kleine Darwin* (Darwin Abridged), *Das große Buch der Evolution* (The Big Book of Evolution) and *Laser* (Lasers).

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