

Sacramento Book Review



Below is a clipping of your book review that appeared in the January 09 issue of the *Sacramento Book Review*. Thank you for sending us the book.

The Age of Entanglement

By *Louisa Gilder*

Knopf, \$27.50, 464 pages

In an interestingly constructed book, Gilder explores the history of quantum physics, the scientists involved, and most of the concepts explored by them. The most potentially interesting part of quantum physics is the correlation between two particles when separated, an effect that Einstein described as “spooky action at a distance.” Most of the major players in developing quantum theory are here, Einstein, Bohr, Heisenberg, Schrödinger, Born, Oppenheimer, von Neumann, Bohm, Feynman, and Bell. The unusual thing Gilder has done, and probably the most controversial, is take existing papers, speeches, memoirs, and letters to create and recreate

conversations that happened and some that didn't. In using their own words, Gilder creates a view of the debates that took place - or could have. She takes liberty to create not only the debates, but also the more subtle interactions between the players during those debates. How much her recreation changes the intent of the original arguments is hard to say, but it was an interesting conceit. Most of the current thought on quantum physics and how the particles are considered is fairly well covered, with maybe the only major exception being the Many Worlds theory. This is not a science history in the typi-

cal sense, nor is it a historical fiction. It is a readable introduction to quantum physics for the interested layperson, as long as they realize that the many conversations may not accurately reflect the intent of the parties.

