

When Michael Faraday first introduced his Christmas Lectures over 100 years ago, he truly wowed the crowd. The man loved nature & science & eagerly presented his lessons in the most delightful manner and this book captures the fullness of his style. These lectures were originally intended for the youth of 19th century London but even today's savvy students will be keen for this slender volume which delights, teaches and holds your attention. I am recommending this book as an example of a good read which brings elegant literature to the usually dry topic of science. It's exactly the type of book that will stir real interest in the subject, in young and old alike. This book changed my life. During my Junior year, I decided to change my major from English (future law student) to physics. I went online, read reviews and ended up buying this book, Feynman's lectures, Dirac's quantum mechanics, and Bondi's relativity. To say that I look upon the summer spent reading these books fondly would be the understatement of a lifetime—I wish I could go back and learn it all again! This book breathes science like few others. I only wish everyone (layman and professional) had an ear for the simple beauty which Dr. Faraday makes so plain. From the Author: From the primitive pine-torch to the paraffin candle, how wide an interval! between them how vast a contrast! The means adopted by man to illuminate his home at night, stamp at once his position in the scale of civilisation. The fluid bitumen of the far East, blazing in rude vessels of baked earth; the Etruscan lamp, exquisite in form, yet ill adapted to its office; the whale, seal, or bear fat, filling the hut of the Esquimaux or Lap with odour rather than light; the huge wax candle on the glittering altar, the range of gas lamps in our streets,—all have their stories to tell. All, if they could speak (and, after their own manner, they can),

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