



Wondrous Truths: The Improbable Triumph of Modern Science

By J. D. Trout

Oxford University Press. Hardback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Wondrous Truths: The Improbable Triumph of Modern Science, J. D. Trout, Explaining the world around us, and the life within, is one of the most uniquely human drives, and the most celebrated activities of science. Good explanations are accurate causal accounts of the things we wonder at. We explain our children's recalcitrance, the secrets of happiness, or the best route to health. But explanation's earthy origins haven't grounded it; we have used it to account for the grandest of mysteries of the natural world. Why does lightning produce a thunderclap? Why do some cancers respond better to chemotherapy? Why is there a red shift in light coming from cosmologically remote objects? Why do some children with the same level of hearing loss respond differently to cochlear implants? These explanations give us a sense of understanding. But this sense is not a psychological signaling system for the truth. For every true explanation (""), there is a false one that feels just as good (""). But a good theory's explanations have a much easier path to truth. This push for good explanations elevated science from medieval alchemy to polymer or electro-chemistry, or a...



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