



# The Physics of Wall Street A Brief History of Predicting the Unpredictable

By James Owen Weatherall

Tantor Audio. No binding. Book Condition: New. Audio CD. Dimensions: 6.5in. x 5.5in. x 1.1in. After the economic meltdown of 2008, Warren Buffett famously warned, beware of geeks bearing formulas. But as James Weatherall demonstrates, not all geeks are created equal. While many of the mathematicians and software engineers on Wall Street failed when their abstractions turned ugly in practice, a special breed of physicists has a much deeper history of revolutionizing finance. Taking us from fin-de-sicle Paris to Rat Packera Las Vegas, from wartime government labs to Yippie communes on the Pacific coast, Weatherall shows how physicists successfully brought their science to bear on some of the thorniest problems in economics, from options pricing to bubbles. The crisis was partly a failure of mathematical modeling. But even more, it was a failure of some very sophisticated financial institutions to think like physicists. Models whether in science or finance have limitations; they break down under certain conditions. And in 2008, sophisticated models fell into the hands of people who didnt understand their purpose, and didnt care. It was a catastrophic misuse of science. The solution, however, is not to give up on models; its to make them better. Weatherall reveals the people and...



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