



NEWS RELEASE

Key West, Florida • Dayton, Ohio

For Immediate Release

Contact: publicist@fredarment.com

It took 100 years for a novel to give life to modern physics.
Now take the quantum leap.

Backbeat

A Novel of Physics

By J. Frederick Arment

Undulating waves, colliding particles, trapped energy—since Einstein’s amazing year of 1905, physics has been a wellspring of metaphor for fiction. Yet *Backbeat: A Novel of Physics* goes well beyond using physics as metaphor. Point of view depends on the reader’s frame of reference, plots resonate through time, characters superimpose as waves of energy, and sentences seem to vibrate on the page!

Thanks to the ideas of Einstein and his colleagues, *Backbeat: A Novel of Physics* has the advantage of a world teeming with virtual particles and collapsing probability waves in which orphans can reconcile the past and change the future. Juxtaposing the anarchic lives of New York runaways with the stoic world of physicists, author J. Frederick Arment tells anew the universal story of an orphan fighting for birthright.

When physicist-entrepreneur Frank Whirlpool is murdered, his runaway adopted son, Romey Argasti, is named sole heir to the two-billion-dollar Whirlpool Estate—with one stipulation. The nineteen-year-old must find a lost piece of music composed by his birth mother just before she and his birth father, Justin Bishop, died in a plane crash over the English Channel.

This heartfelt and compelling story is enough to attract readers, but Arment puts significance into this inspirational novel with a philosophic undercurrent that is both deep and accessible. Skillfully threaded

—more—

Substantive fiction since 1995

through the mystery and adventures facing our young protagonist are five epiphanies, or intuitive insights, gained from viewing the human condition in the clear light of physics:

- Infinite Possibility
- Limitless Connectivity
- Natural Uncertainty
- Open-ended Probability
- Creative Spontaneity

Each of Romey's insights, though subtly constructed, is an eloquent summary of recent breakthroughs in science too important to be hoarded in laboratories and textbooks. Yet readers have no need for a background in physics. With uncommon artistry, Arment creates a new language of energy and a cadre of characters that speak volumes about physics and what an understanding of it can mean in our lives. Physics, in effect, becomes an elegant means to a surprising climax and fulfilling end.

Yet for all its attention to science, *Backbeat* is a traditional, character-driven work of fiction. It tells an engaging story in an innovative way. The insights and learning we gain from the author's new language of energy is simply an added feature to a story idea long overdue. With the 100th anniversary of Einstein's theories upon us, fiction can shed light on how the new laws and speculations of physics affect our motivations, actions, and fates. *Backbeat: A Novel of Physics* is:

- The universal story of an orphan's quest for family told in the language of physics
- The first novel that brings quantum physics to bear on human relationships
- A coming-of-age novel in which an orphan learns spiritual maturity through his mother's lost letters
- A novel of physics that celebrates the 100th anniversary of Einstein's theories: 1905-2005
- An inspirational story in which readers share five insights through an understanding of physics
- A murder mystery in which the solution involves investigating universal questions of life
- A love story told in light of an eternal and timeless physics of love

Readers will not want to miss this one-of-a-kind novel that brings the new language and insights of quantum physics to bear on the way we live and die.

Category: Fiction/Inspiration/Mystery

Marketing Plan: Upon request

Graphics: Book cover and author photo scans available at: www.bluehotbooks.com

For more information: contact publisher Lisa Wolters at wolters@bluehotbooks.com or the *Backbeat* publicist at publicist@bluehotbooks.com; 937-416-2475.

J. FREDERICK ARMENT

Author of *Backbeat: A Novel of Physics*, J. Frederick Arment winters in Florida on the sailboat *Serenata* and summers with his family in Yellow Springs, Ohio. After an early career teaching history, Arment founded a successful writing and marketing firm and began lecturing at Wilberforce College and Wright State University. He has penned numerous technical publications for Fortune 500 companies as well as non-profit and governmental organizations.



Arment is also author of *The Synthesis*, an innovative techno-thriller from the FictionNet® bookplate (1995). He was a board member of the Antioch Writers' Workshop and a book editor for WAM publishing. He is a founding board member of the Dayton International Peace Museum project and serves as co-chair of Dayton Peace Action. In addition to a bachelor of science in history education, Arment holds a master of humanities with a focus on the eighteenth-century American and French Enlightenment. His post-graduate study has focused on the integrated disciplines of philosophy, theology, and physics. For more information, go to his website: www.fredarment.com

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QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

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Are characters important in this novel?

Yes! Above all, the strongest element of this richly detailed novel is the extraordinary care given to a cadre of characters. One of the major elements of *Backbeat: A Novel of Physics* is the way each person's motivations, actions, and destiny flow through the story like waves of energy. The characters, in effect, create the mystery and adventure in the plot by their negative and positive interactions. From Romey Argasti and his mother, Maria, to guardian Frank Whirlpool and lawyer Oscar Fine, each character builds a distinct motion that contributes uniquely to the surprising climax and resolution.

Why is this is a “novel of physics?”

Backbeat is first and foremost a novel, second a novel of physics. It delivers a traditional orphan's tale using physics to illuminate plot and action. Romey Argasti's birth father and guardian were physicists. His childhood was defined by his guardian's obsessive lessons in physics, and the plot is intertwined in the politics of the Nobel Prize in physics. Yet Romey finds his way through the complexity of his empirical world to the root of questions we all ask about family and our sense of belonging.

What are the epiphanies?

Intuitive insights, or epiphanies, are used in many novels to convey a character's moments of revelation. *Backbeat* is not a “how-to” book that attempts to lay truth at readers' feet in five easy steps. However, a study of physics, as many non-fiction books on shelves already maintain, leads to several insights that are important to a modern understanding of our world. These insights, though subtly constructed, are part of Romey's journey to find the truth about his birth parents. The author is now preparing a follow-up book, *Sailing Free: Physics and the Open Sea*, which delves deeper into these moments of revelation.

Must readers understand the physics in the book?

The story line of *Backbeat* is not contingent on an understanding of physics, yet part of the wonderful effect of this novel is that non-scientific readers come away with an appreciation of how physics is fundamental to their lives. Most of all, this comes through the association of physics with the actions and descriptions of characters. Yet at certain times, the artistry of the author delivers a narrative description of a particular facet of physics that beautifully illuminates it for readers of any background.

Does this novel fit into a genre or category?

With its poetic narrative and depth of character development, *Backbeat: A Novel of Physics* can best be described as literary fiction. It blends elements of mystery, suspense, and adventure in a coming-of-age

mix that results in a page-turner with extraordinary depth of character. Like current medical and legal novels, *Backbeat* uses physics as a discipline to drive plot and provide readers with interesting and useful detail. In addition, readers of New Age books will find in *Backbeat* an inspirational story that, in some ways, gives credence to the core of their beliefs—the influence of energy on human beings. Yet with its compelling story line, multi-dimensional characters, and gripping climax, Arment has produced a book that appeals, finally, as a classic work of fiction.

How does this relate to the World Year of Physics and Einstein's 100-year anniversary?

In 1905, while working in the patent office in Switzerland, Albert Einstein developed a set of theories that began a revolution in the way scientists view the world. The special theory of relativity upset the classical, Newtonian world by suggesting the speed of light is the same for all observers, no matter what an observer's perspective. Another paper on Brownian motion showed the reality of atoms, and still another, on the photoelectric effect, suggested light be seen as a stream of particles. How have these and other theories of the quantum age affected the lives of ordinary people? We have powerful technologies based on the new physics, but our language is still locked in a Newtonian world. One hundred years of lost opportunity now comes to an end as *Backbeat: A Novel of Physics* elegantly introduces us to the quantum world.

Why is the author qualified to write this book?

It has been nearly fifty years since Bertrand Russell said, "Everybody knows Einstein did something astonishing, but very few know exactly what it was." Today, from computers to nuclear weapons, we are surrounded by the result of relativity and quantum mechanics. People are intimidated not by its difficulty, but rather by its inaccessibility. Many physicists, like Medieval priests of the latin liturgy, have protected their language for fear of misinterpretation by the masses. Indeed, one of the ideas in this novel is that physics is far too important to be hoarded in laboratories and classrooms. Arment is not only a novelist, but a technical writer with twenty-five years of experience. He understands the language of both disciplines, literature and science, and with his perspective, readers can finally "feel" physics through the universal language of character and story.

What is the language of energy?

Humans are full of fears, one of which is the fear at the heart of why energy seems so alien to our self concept. We are locked in our material world, comfortable that matter is the natural state of our existence. Yet as physics shows us, nothing could be further from the truth. The universe is in constant motion, as are we. The language of energy created for *Backbeat* puts the human condition on firmer ground. We are, according to science, made of transitory waves. Our thoughts and actions are comprised of energy. Our relations with others and how we live our lives, indeed, can only benefit from a more practical language of energy that is closer to our natural state of existence.

How do I get more information?

The author will begin a 17-city speaking tour equipped with a multimedia presentation that focuses on physics and how it relates to our lives. Contact Blue Hot Books' publisher Lisa Wolters or the *Backbeat* publicist by email or phone.