## Contents

Pre	face	ix
Pro	logue: The greatest monument and a road map for a quest	1
	Our physical world Preview of part I  1. Matter and the forces that move it 2. The rise of the classical field 3. Time unified with space 4. The geometry of spacetime 5. The rise and fall and rise of particles Recap of part I	15 15 17 22 34 47 56 65
11	The road to quantum field theory Preview of part II  1. Getting the best deal: from least time to extremal action 2. Global versus local 3. Enter the quantum Recap of part II	67 69 80 84 99
111	Becoming a quantum field theorist Preview of part III  1. How to become a quantum field theorist (almost) instantly 2. Origin of forces: range and exchange 3. Attraction or repulsion: a mysterious but all important sign Recap of part III	101 103 112 123 135

IV	A universe of fields	137
	Preview of part IV	137
	1. Everybody is a field: Dirac set the electron free	139
	2. Theoretical physics, like music, starts with harmony but then	
	tries to move on	149
	3. Quantum electrodynamics, perturbation theory,	
	and cultural taboos	162
	4. The road to gauge theory	173
	Recap of part IV	181
	A well-deserved rest	183
V	Quantum field theory and the four fundamental interactions	185
	Preview of part V	185
	1. Antimatter!	187
	2. Too strong and too mean but ultimately free	192
	3. The weak and the electroweak interactions	211
	Addendum to chapter V.3	239
	4. Grand unification	243
	5. Gravity and curved spacetime	261
	6. Quantum gravity: The Holy Grail of theoretical physics?	279
	Recap of part V	295
VI	Quantum field theory is more intellectually complete than	
	quantum mechanics	297
	Preview of part VI	297
	1. A question of identity	299
	2. Exclusion, inclusion, and quantum statistics	312
	3. Intellectual completeness	324
	Recap of part VI	329
Par	Parting comments and some unsolicited advice	
Tim	Timeline	
A short list of mathematical symbols		347
Bib	Bibliography	
Ind	Index	