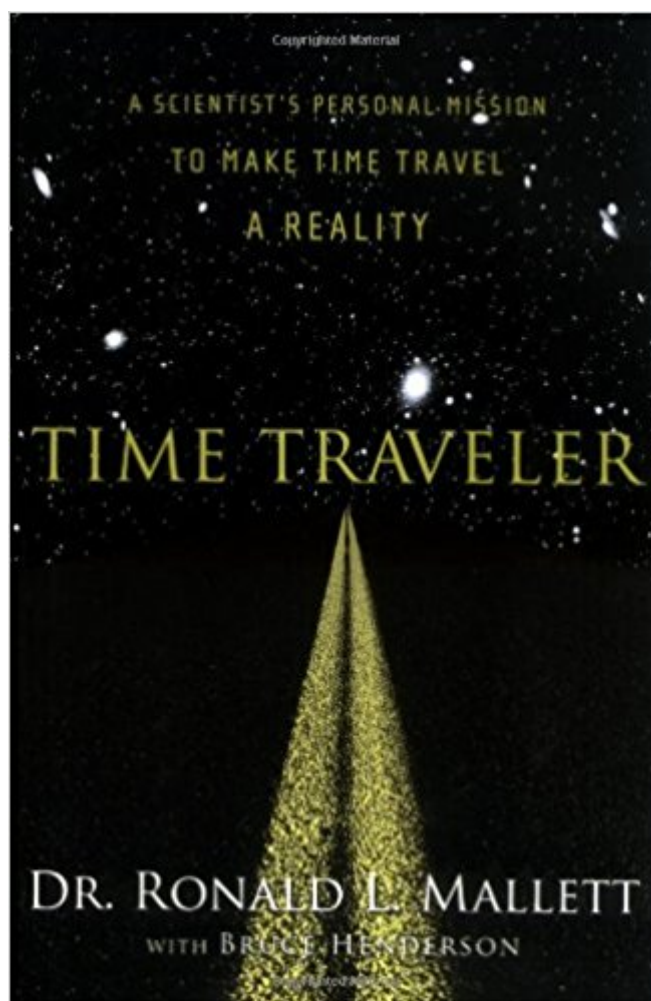


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# Time Traveler: A Scientist's Personal Mission To Make Time Travel A Reality



## Synopsis

This is the dramatic and inspirational first-person story of theoretical physicist, Dr. Ronald Mallett, who recently discovered the basic equations for a working time machine that he believes can be used as a transport vehicle to the past. Combining elements of *Rocket Boys* and *Elegant Universe*, *Time Traveler* follows Mallett's discovery of Einstein's work on space-time, his study of Godel's work on a solution of Einstein's equation that might allow for time travel, and his own research in theoretical physics spanning thirty years that culminated in his recent discovery of the effects of circulating laser light and its application to time travel. The foundation for Mallett's historic time-travel work is Einstein's theory of general relativity, a sound platform for any physicist. Through his years of reading and studying Einstein, Mallett became a buff well before he had any notion of the importance of the grand old relativist's theories to his own career. One interesting subtext to the story is Mallett's identification with, and keen interest in, Einstein. Mallett provides easy-to-understand explanations of the famous physicist's seminal work.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Physicist Mallett's theory that "space and time can be manipulated" to make time travel possible has gained national media attention. His research and theories flow nicely through this easy-to-read autobiography. Mallett, one of the first African-American Ph.D.s in theoretical physics, has lived under the shadow of his father's death when he was 10. His struggles with poverty, racism and depression, coupled with his extreme drive to succeed at building a time machine and so see his beloved father again are inspirational. Mallett's (and bestselling author Henderson's) simple prose

makes for clear and concise explanations of the science involved. The author comes across as a warm, inspired, driven, troubled man who is generous in his descriptions of others and must be an excellent teacher at the University of Connecticut, where he is a physics professor. Mallett describes the path of his education and research into black holes and circulating lasers, which he believes drag time into a closed loop suitable for time travel. Due to the basic level of the science content and the focus on Mallett's personal quest, this book is best suited for a general rather than a science-leaning audience, or as an inspirational text for aspiring young scientists. B&w photos. (Nov. 14) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Ronald L. Mallett, Ph.D., served in the U.S. Air Force for four years. He received his B.S. in Physics in 1969, M.S. in 1970, and Ph.D. in physics in 1973, all from Pennsylvania State University. In 1975 he joined the faculty at the University of Connecticut, where he is a professor of theoretical physics. He has published many papers on theoretical physics in professional journals. His time travel research has been featured in an hour-long TV special, "The World's First Time Machine," as well as publications as diverse as The Wall Street Journal, Rolling Stone, New Scientist, The Village Voice, The Boston Globe and Pravda.

Mallett is a brilliant scientist with an immensely compelling personal story. Its essence is a moving tale of a lost love, a devoted and dedicated father who died much too young. How this tragedy catapulted young Mallett into a career as a prominent physicist is the story that makes this book a true page-turner. Incredibly, Mallett embeds this narrative with the most fascinating scientific explanations of how humans can manipulate the passage of time. There is nothing crackpot about this. It is all based on the most respected scientists, people like Einstein, and papers that have been reviewed and published in the most reputable journals. As if that were not enough, Mallett perceptively explores what it means to be African American in an almost completely white scientific and academic world. This book has so much to offer on so many levels that it is a don't-miss gem.

Great book for the layman wanting to know about the theory of relativity explained in a way that you don't need to be Einstein to understand. Additionally, there is a personal side to this book that traces the journey of a remarkable man who despite obstacles became a professor of physics who contributed to science by constructing a theoretical way to send messages back in time. This is one of the few books that I actually went back to read again and that should tell you something about the

quality of this piece.

It was one of the most original, tragic, and fascinating stories I've had the pleasure to read. Dr. Mallett is an astrophysicist, not a writer, which gives his book greater authenticity, in my view. It's almost like reading a long letter from a friend and, while he is unlikely to achieve his original goal of saving his father, the ultimate irony in my view is that his extraordinary life devoted to physics and arguably advancing our understanding of time may have, at the end of the day, been created by his father. The implications of this book, a true story, are ponderable in the extreme and on many levels for anyone interested in science and science fiction.

I heard Dr. Mallett on NPR and ordered the book right away. While some aspects of this book are less than satisfying (Dr. Mallett alternates between hubris and humility in an odd fashion at times....), the emotional quest that set the author on the path of theoretical physics cannot be anything other than deeply affecting. While his personal accounts were sometimes just not quite authentic or unfeigned to me (hey, he's not perfect!), what truly shines in this book is Dr. Mallett's love of science, of math, and his gift for explaining some of the very complex aspects of relativity theory. In this respect, I heartily recommend the book and would hope that he would write further for the general public on the subject. As a PhD chemist myself, I am very appreciative of the gift of teaching with which he is endowed, a rarity among great researchers. His explanations to a general science audience are almost as powerful as those of Feynman. Dr. Mallett's commitment to his lifelong work, his dogged pursuit of any and all tools (mathematical and instrumental) to achieve that goal stand as a shining example. His story should be required reading for minority youth interested in the sciences, engineering, or just seemingly forging ahead in academia. Any flaws in the book are dwarfed by his true artistry in theoretical physics.

I read the Time Traveler and I must say it really is a good book. Dr. Mallet has put together in this book a lot of the mindboggling mysteries concerning the universe that continue interest adults and kids alike. His quest in order to achieve time travel causes him to delve deeper into the theories of Albert Einstein among other famous physicists and study the nature of rotating black holes. All of this Mallet elaborates upon but also makes very easy for the layperson to understand. If you have a strong interest in science, fascinated by the universe, and are looking for an escape from your mundane job or life then read this book. The intellectual stimulation and scientific discoveries will give you the freedom you're looking for.

Time Traveler is a wonderfully fast-paced narrative, brilliantly juxtaposing cutting-edge science and personal drama. I look forward to seeing this story on the big screen along the lines of A Beautiful Mind. A quick read, hard to put down, and filled with depth on multiple levels. This moving memoir would make not only an amazing movie, but a wonderful theoretical physics textbook. I share the author's fascination with Einstein's work as well as with such stories as The Time Machine. I look forward to seeing his work come to fruition as time travel moves from the stuff of science fiction to reality. Dr. Mallett's breakthroughs are worthy of Nobel Prize consideration.

Dr. Mallett wrote an amazing autobiography that dubs as a physics primer. The language is easy to follow even though the science is complex. It is truly an inspirational story of perseverance in face of insurmountably odds. This is a testament of the things we can do for our loved ones. This is an African-American story. This is a human story.

Ron Mallett's book, "Time Traveler," was a most interesting mix of auto-biography and scientific discovery. I was deeply engrossed and moved, as I read about the life long journey the author took, after the premature and sudden death of his father, his devastation at such a young age and his secret goal to build a time machine; his main goal, to go back in time to save his father. Admittedly, the scientific parts were a struggle, but the story still held my interest. I look forward to hearing more about further discoveries about time travel from Dr. Mallett. Sincerely, FRAN KASTURAS (though for some reason, the name that appears at the top of my review says, Lee Mamunes..? I am NOT Lee Mamunes)

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