

Abstract:**Growing Up Feynman**

In 1977, when she was only nine years old, Michelle's adventurous parents, Richard and Gweneth Feynman decided they had to visit Tannu Tuva, a mountainous country nestled between the Soviet Union and Mongolia, almost on a whim. Their motivation was fueled, oddly, by Richard's childhood curiosity over the culture's exotic stamps and the quizzical spelling of the forgotten nation's capital city. But Richard didn't want special treatment. He wanted to get there on a more basic level. That famously quirky stubbornness of Richard Feynman meant he would wait eleven years before being granted a travel visa to Tuva. To explain and elaborate on her father's quirky perspective and personality, Michelle presents an unprecedented, intimate look at what it was like to grow up as a Feynman, complete with vivid personal stories and vibrant photographs. Richard loved public games, catching people off guard, and challenging Michelle's math teachers, much to her embarrassment. It wasn't until she was much older that Michelle learned that her father was even considered a genius. Her experience was with that of a loving, clumsy, forgetful, but hard-working teacher that never took himself too seriously. In 1988, Richard finally received permission from Moscow to travel to Tuva, but it was too late. Richard had passed the day before. Twenty-one years later Michelle was given the opportunity to visit Tuva in her father's place. She will close by sharing this deeply personal and emotional experience.

Bio:

Michelle Feynman is the daughter of Richard Feynman, an American theoretical physicist. A graduate of Art Center College of Design, Michelle is a freelance photographer and spends most of her days taking pictures. She is perhaps best known as the editor of *Perfectly Reasonable Deviations from the Beaten Track: The Letters of Richard P. Feynman*, a collection of letters to and from her father.