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very physicist agrees quantum mechanics is among humanity's finest scientific achievements. But ask physicists what quantum mechanics means for the nature of reality, and the result will be a brawl. For a century, most physicists have followed Niels Bohr, whose Copenhagen interpretation of quantum mechanics dismisses questions about reality as meaningless. Solipsistic and poorly reasoned, the Copenhagen interpretation has endured, thanks both to Bohr's scientific heirs, who sought vigorously to protect his legacy, and to a physics community that favored practical experiments over philosophical arguments. Questioning that status quo long meant professional ruin. And yet, from the 1920s to today, physicists like John Bell, David Bohm, and Hugh Everett have persisted in seeking the true meaning of quantum mechanics. What Is Real? is the gripping story of that clash of ideas and the courageous scientists who dared to stand up for truth.

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