

Dear Reader,

When I was at university, I wrote a quantum physics paper that got published in the same journal that Einstein shared many of his famous ideas. It led to me receiving a national award and the unforgettable opportunity to make a speech at the Houses of Parliament in London.

That same night, I took the short bus ride home to Peckham, where blue-and-white tape fenced off a crime scene on my aunt's block. A kid had been stabbed. He was fifteen, tops.

A twenty-minute journey was all that separated those two completely different worlds. But throughout my life, I've also lived in places like Kigali, Somerset, Oxford, and Philadelphia, which has always made me wonder: How do I reconcile these contrasting environments I grew up in with each other? And how do I make some of the tough questions in life "add up" the way they do in these equations?

Then one day came a mad realization—that I could combine the story of a kid from South London with the physics of time travel. And maybe even make it gripping enough that the nerds, the hustlers, the jocks (and the rest of us in between) would all want to read it. And would all get it.

I hope you enjoy diving into Esso and Rhia's world. I hope things start to "add up" better for all of us as we fly into the future.

—Femi Fadugba