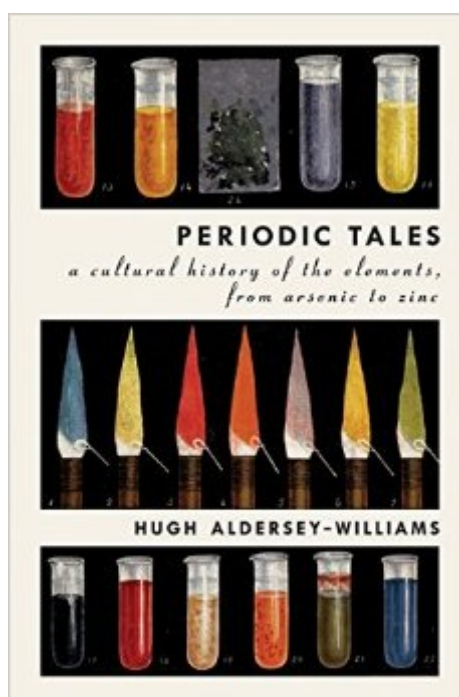


The book was found

Periodic Tales



Synopsis

In the spirit of *A Short History of Nearly Everything* comes *Periodic Tales*. Award-winning science writer Hugh Andersey-Williams offers readers a captivating look at the elementsâ and the amazing, little-known stories behind their discoveries. *Periodic Tales* is an energetic and wide-ranging book of innovations and innovators, of superstition and science and the myriad ways the chemical elements are woven into our culture, history, and language. It will delight readers of *Genome*, *Einsteinâ™s Dreams*, *Longitude*, and *The Age of Wonder*.Â

Book Information

Hardcover: 448 pages

Publisher: Ecco (March 29, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0061824720

ISBN-13: 978-0061824722

Product Dimensions: 8.6 x 5.9 x 1.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (135 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #567,930 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #120 inÂ Books > Science & Math > Chemistry > Inorganic #1464 inÂ Books > Science & Math > Chemistry > General & Reference #2945 inÂ Books > Science & Math > History & Philosophy

Customer Reviews

I have to admit that I was curious when I saw the title *Periodic Tales*. Did it have anything to do with the periodic tables of elements? If so, why tales? (I had to assume it wasn't just a typo.) The title also attracted me because of a newfound interest in the natural sciences, something I never took in school unless I had to, and which I rarely understood. And, the cover blurb on the back of the book sounded interesting. After buying the book, I read reviews of it on BN.com and .com and feared I might have made a mistake. Some of those who had read it found it uninteresting and a bit self-serving. Others wrote good reviews. The mixture of opinions gave me pause, but I'd already bought the book, so I might as well take the plunge. I was immediately drawn into the stories of the discoveries, the insight, the pure luck in some cases. Did you know that Sweden is the site of the largest number of discoveries of metals in the world? Or that Marie Curie carried a bit of radium around in her pocket? The historical and biographical information is interesting. The differences in methods and sources, the reactions of new elements, especially in the atomic age. One of the more

interesting views of the elements described here is how so many are perceived by the public, artists, professionals, and others. Some are described as being either male or female, good or rich or bad. Silver is female, represents good, while gold is male and rich. Aluminum (aluminium in most of the world) was seen as flashy and modern, but its image has faded, if not its gleam. Chromium adorned automobiles and was considered to be a fancy ideal. The author visited many of the sites of discovery or the mining areas.

Reading Mr. Aldersey-Williams' collection of periodic tales leads you to one inescapable conclusion: some elements of the periodic table are more culturally interesting than others. From the author's point of view, this may be because an element's cultural significance increases with the amount of time we've pounded, polished, or manipulated it. This theory is sensible enough; after all, the most culturally significant elements in this book are gold, iron, silver, lead, tin, and copper. Add to them the radioactive elements--those that opened a new frontier for science, a new dread for mankind--and you have a sturdy bundle of literary alloys that form the book's backbone. Moving out from these, Mr. Aldersey-Williams goes on to fashion many more alloys you hope will be as culturally dense as the others. Many are not. In fact, some are hardly alloys at all, but merely more than stories of their discoveries. Others, examples of elements the author found in a forgotten cupboard. Still more, like those rare earth metals lingering all about the Nordic landscape, leave you appreciative for the author's excursion but questioning their relevance to his overall scheme. If there is a scheme, that is. It can be hard to track. The result: you're not sure whether you're reading a high tech scavenger hunt, a nostalgic tale of the author's childhood, or a true cultural odyssey.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Periodic Tales
Periodic Fasting: Repair your DNA, Grow Younger, and Learn to Appreciate your Food
Migraine and Periodic Headache: A Modern Approach to Successful Treatment
Periodic Table with Chemistry Formulas
SparkCharts
Wonderful Life with the Elements: The Periodic Table
Personified
The Periodic Table of Chemical Elements
The Periodic Table: A Visual Guide to the Elements
Elements, The: An Illustrated History Of The Periodic Table
The Bridesmaids: True Tales of Love, Envy, Loyalty . . . and Terrible Dresses (Picador True Tales)
Fairy tales for adults.: Fantastic fairy tales for adults with an erotic bias.
Twisted Tales: The Complete Collection (Nine Adult Fairy Tales Of Extreme And Taboo Punishment)
The Arabian Nights: Tales of 1,001 Nights: Volume 1 (The Arabian Nights or Tales from 1001 Nights)
Plain Tales from the Hills: Rudyard Kipling Collection - 40+ Short Stories (The Tales of Life in British India): In the Pride of His Youth, Todds' Amendment, ... the Night, The Gate of a Hundred Sorrows...
The Arabian Nights: Tales of

1,001 Nights: Volume 2 (The Arabian Nights or Tales from 1001 Nights) The Arabian Nights: Tales of 1,001 Nights: Volume 3 (The Arabian Nights or Tales from 1001 Nights) Amazing Tales from the Boston Red Sox Dugout: A Collection of the Greatest Red Sox Stories Ever Told (Tales from the Team) Tales from the Atlanta Braves Dugout: A Collection of the Greatest Braves Stories Ever Told (Tales from the Team) Tales from the Sacramento Kings Locker Room: A Collection of the Greatest Kings Stories Ever Told (Tales from the Team) Hoop Tales: UConn Huskies Women's Basketball (Hoop Tales Series) Hoop Tales: Maryland Terrapins Men's Basketball (Hoop Tales Series)

[Dmca](#)