



Periodic Tales: A Cultural History of the Elements, from Arsenic to Zinc

By Hugh Aldersey-Williams

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In the spirit of *A Short History of Nearly Everything* comes *Periodic Tales*. Award-winning science writer Hugh Aldersey-Williams offers readers a captivating look at the elements—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*, *Einstein's Dreams*, *Longitude*, and *The Age of Wonder*.

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Editorial Review

Review

“[A] virtuoso tour of the periodic table.” (Publishers Weekly)

“[C]harming. . . . Aldersey-Williams writes with simplicity and elegance. The stories may not help you on your next chemistry test, but they’ll help you appreciate the building blocks that are all around us yet all too easy to overlook.” (Associated Press)

“A lucid, enjoyable collection . . . that, element by element, demystifies the iconic periodic table.” (Kirkus Reviews)

“Aldersey-Williams’s playful, hands-on approach to scientific exploration shines through the book.” (Boston Globe)

For the UK edition: “[F]ascinating and beautiful. . . . If only chemistry had been like this at school. . . . [A] rich compilation of delicious tales.” (Matt Ridley, *Prospect* magazine)

From the Back Cover

Like the alphabet, the calendar, or the zodiac, the periodic table of the chemical elements has a permanent place in our imagination. But aside from the handful of common ones (iron, carbon, copper, gold), the elements themselves remain wrapped in mystery. We do not know what most of them look like, how they exist in nature, how they got their names, or of what use they are to us. Unlocking their astonishing secrets and colorful pasts, *Periodic Tales* is a passionate journey through mines and artists’ studios, to factories and cathedrals, into the woods and to the sea to discover the true stories of these fascinating but mysterious building blocks of the universe.

About the Author

Hugh Aldersey-Williams is the author of numerous books on architecture, design, and science, including *Panicology* and *The Most Beautiful Molecule*, which was a finalist for the Los Angeles Times Book Prize. He lives in Norfolk, England.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Barbara Marburger:

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Patrick Duenas:

The book untitled Periodic Tales: A Cultural History of the Elements, from Arsenic to Zinc contain a lot of information on this. The writer explains her idea with easy approach. The language is very straightforward all the people, so do certainly not worry, you can easy to read the item. The book was published by famous author. The author provides you in the new time of literary works. It is possible to read this book because you can keep reading your smart phone, or program, so you can read the book throughout anywhere and anytime. If you want to buy the e-book, you can open their official web-site in addition to order it. Have a nice go through.

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