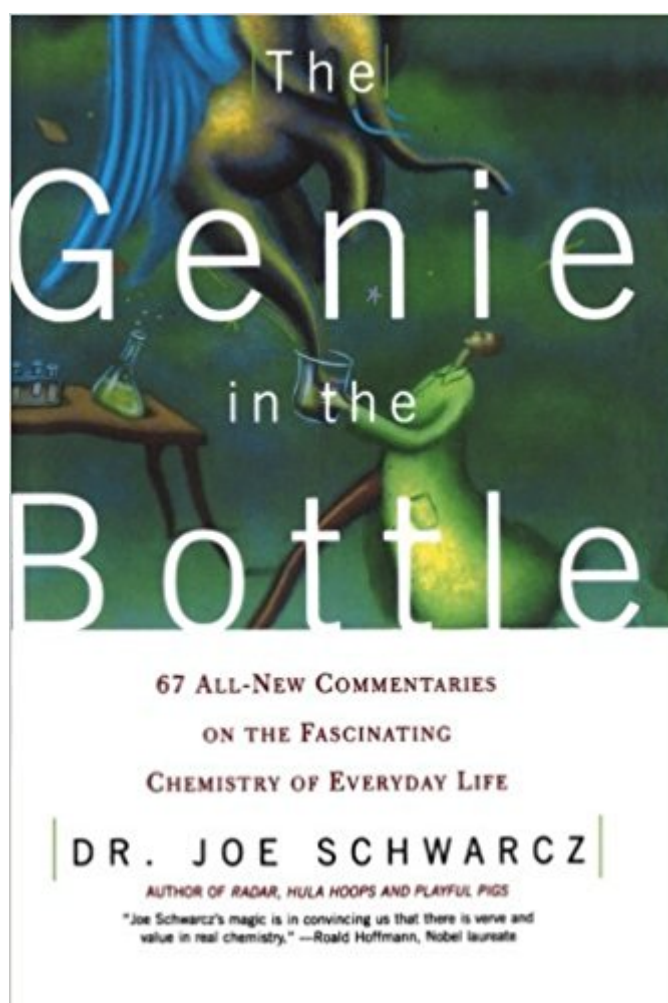


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# The Genie In The Bottle: 67 All-New Commentaries On The Fascinating Chemistry Of Everyday Life



## Synopsis

Looking for a headache cure? Try willow bark. Wondering how that ice cream got its color? Could be from bug juice. Giving us the lowdown on these and other chemical phenomena, *The Genie in the Bottle* reveals the fun and fascinating secrets collected by popular science writer Dr. Joe Schwarcz. Blending quirky chemistry with engaging tales from the history of science, Schwarcz offers a different twist on licorice and straight talk on travel to the dark side of the sun, along with the skinny on chocolate research, ginkgo biloba, and blueberries. Find out how spies used secret inks and how acetone changed the course of history. Dr. Joe even solves the mystery of exploding shrimp and, of course, delves into the secret of the genie in the bottle. Infused with Schwarcz's humor and his fondness for the wonders of magic and science, *The Genie in the Bottle* celebrates some of the the most amazing corners of our universe-and our cupboards.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“Schwarcz takes a little history, adds a dash of chemistry and produces a gem.”

“Joe Schwarcz is to everyday chemistry what Stephen Jay Gould is to evolution.”

“Dr. James P. Snyder, director of Biostructural Research, Chemistry

Department, Emory University”

“Joe Schwarcz’s magic is in convincing us that there is verve and value in real chemistry.”

“Roald Hoffmann, Nobel laureate

Let "Dr. Joe" heal what ails ya *The Genie in the Bottle* makes science downright fun. Dr. Joe Schwarcz blends quirky anecdotes about everyday chemistry with engaging tales from the history of

science. Get a different twist on licorice and travel to the dark side of the sun. Control stinky feet and bend spoons and minds. Learn about the latest on chocolate research, flax, ginkgo biloba, magnesium, and blueberries. Read about the ups of helium and the downs of drain cleaners. Find out why bug juice is used to colour ice cream, how spies used secret inks, and how acetone changed the course of history. It's all there! "Dr. Joe" also solves the mystery of the exploding shrimp and, finally, he lets us in on the secret of the genie in the bottle. The author's first book, Radar, Hula Hoops and Playful Pigs, was a 1999 best-seller inada. The author is a charismatic public speaker and notable crowd-pleaser. His fans call him "Dr. Joe" and he always brings humour, show-biz savvy, and magic to his work. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

This is a fun little book that is exactly what the sub-heading on the book says it is: 67 commentaries on the fascinating chemistry of everyday life. I work as a chemist and I did enjoy reading this book. The book is broken up into 5 main sections. There is a section on Health Matters, Food Matters, Chemistry Everywhere, learning from the past, and Silly stories. The Health Matters and Food Matters are the most organized sections of the book. The mini-stories in the these two sections deal exclusively with health or food. Each section had a collection of short anecdotes. The anecdotes average at 3-4 pages per length with some being shorter and a few being significantly longer. This book is definitely geared more toward the average joe than to a chemist. That being said, there is enough chemistry addressed to interest your everyday chemist too. I was a bit disappointed that I had heard a lot of these stories before; they are things I've read about in headlines or just have general knowledge of. But for everything I had heard of there were two things I hadn't heard about. There is a lot of fun miscellaneous information in this book. Depending on how much of that you want to retain this book could be a quick or a slow read. I personally had trouble reading large portions of it at once because it was just so much information to assimilate. Especially in the later sections the anecdotes tend to jump around willy, nilly. You may be reading about how Hydrogen was discovered then, in the next anecdote, you are reading about Silly Putty. I found that I enjoyed the book (and remembered all the fun facts) the best when I read a few anecdotes a day. The writing style is done very well. There is a lot of tongue-in-cheek humor and there are a lot of cleverly worded passages. This is a chemistry book that will amuse and interest everyone. I personally applaud it for bringing chemistry to the masses. Chemistry is awesome and interesting; and it is wonderful that Schwarcz can make it interesting for everyone. I plan on checking out his additional collections of chemistry anecdotes in the future.

This book was great if you are interested in Chemistry, or science in general. It's composed of many short stories that the author experienced himself, and most are quite interesting. It's an easy read and the short chapters make it even easier for people to just pop open the book, read it for a few minutes and go on with whatever business they were working on. I would definitely recommend this book for science-lovers and people who want to know more information about the things they use in daily life.

Here is a book for everyone who has a natural scientific curiosity - a well-written and entertaining look at the chemistry of everyday life. Dr. Schwarz has taken Chemistry, food and magic tricks and rolled them all together in order to create an entertaining read. To name just a few of the topics covered: While cooking peas- how can you make them more GREEN - and why does it work? The chemical benefits of flax seed oil? Why magicians can NOT bend things with thought power alone? The history of Mercury poisoning? Why things are "hot" to taste and how this can be used against bugs? As you can see the list of topics is both broad and entertaining. Amazingly, Dr. Schwarz does not get us caught up in very in-depth chemical equations/reactions. This is a book written for someone with scientific curiosity not necessarily a Masters in Science! I definitely recommend "The Genie in the Bottle" - and I also give it as an endorsement to be used as bedtime stories to your children, for it is these types of short essays on chemistry that may spark the love of the sciences in your child!

This book contains more than five dozen articles each describing some chemical substance, how it was discovered and how it became useful. All interesting and many clearly explained. Each piece of knowledge, however, is encased in long texts straining to be funny. Any trick, preferably cute, is acceptable if it seems it will make the reader smile. Thus, chapters with titles such as "Oil You Need to Know" or "Willow Power", little anecdotes, references to famous names, closely or not associated with subject at hand. So much extraneous material weighs heavily on the final text. If the reader is patient and has little else to do, this may be the book, if he is also interested in chemistry.

I've always been more interested in the arts, leaving science to more analytical folks. However, this gem of a collection of essays was so much fun to read while learning the secrets of how the world works, that I now find myself repeating the illuminating anecdotes. This is a book that should be introduced into elementary schools to give young children a sense of how exciting Chemistry is.

If you've been seeing my name pop up everywhere reviewing this author, you can tell how much I've enjoyed reading his work! He's got a terrific sense of humor and a genuine love for teaching the fascinating science of chemistry.

As described, functional book for school.

This was by far an excellent price and service provided. My book arrived without any incidents like they expressed it would.

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