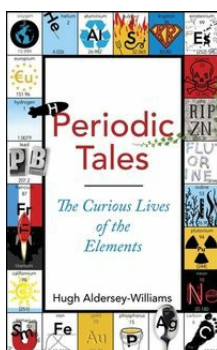


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Each element has a characteristic atomic spectrum, due to the absorption and emission of light associated with the unique energy levels of its orbiting electrons. Hugh Aldersey-Williams, Periodic Tales: A Cultural History of the Elements, from Arsenic to Zinc

Reader's Opinions

If you enjoyed The Disappearing Spoon as much as I did, than this book is a no-brainer must-read. I remember while taking a chemistry class not too long ago that though the nitty gritty details were sometimes daunting, boring, or downright frustrating, it was always the stories about the elements or their discoverers that helped put...

I read this because chemistry has always been my weakest subject and I would like to be less of a chem-idiot. This book is interesting and mostly very well written. It does contain a few odd errors, though, but probably none related to actual chemistry (Like I would know!). One of the themes the author includes is