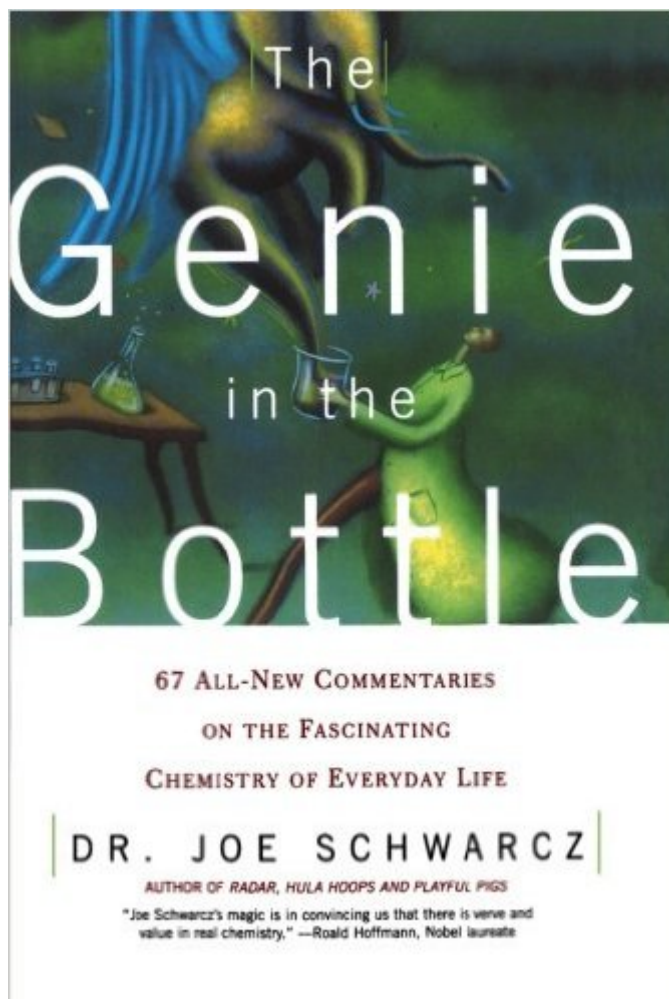


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# The Genie In The Bottle: 67 All-New Commentaries On The Fascinating Chemistry Of Everyday Life



## 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

This book demonstrates how seemingly impractical ideas made it into implementation in the areas of organic and inorganic chemistry. At first, silly puddy was deemed an impractical idea with very little commercial application outside the laboratory. It turned out to be a multi-million dollar idea. Baking soda was not seen as a practical idea initially, although most homes have it today. The concept of drinking urine to heal arthritis was deemed to be bizarre; however, there is some scientific validity to the concept according to the author. Arthritis may be relieved by keeping raisins in gin for 9 days. GLA, primrose oil and chicken cartilage are all helpful complementary strategies to controlling arthritis. Vaseline oil was not seen as a great idea initially. Its inventor, Robert Chesebrough created

an enduring legacy with the product. Chlorinated drinking water saved millions from bacterial diseases. This work describes many of the most promising inventions and processes in chemistry. It would be a perfect reference for a student project. The book is a good value for the price charged. Its contents could make great conversation at any dinner table.

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 is an excellent book for anyone interested in knowing a little more about chemicals and their place in the world. Through his stories, Schwarcz explains how chemicals are used in our everyday lives and how very often they are given a "negative impact" as not being natural. He shows how media and others have made chemicals appear to always be bad yet at the same time these agencies neglect the overwhelming good of chemistry! This book is not about bashing media but rather to inform the reader of the global story and the truth about many of the so-called "toxins" in our world. It is a truly interesting book that is light-hearted in its style so that it will please both the scientist as well as the non-scientist! Finally, if you ever get to see "The Magic of Chemistry" or take "The World of Chemistry" course at McGill ... they are also highly recommended!

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.

This is not a typical chemistry book. Dr. Schwarcz has several interesting stories such as the background of Thalidomide and the origin of the term "snake oil". About half the book is on food and health related topics. It's a fast read and should be interesting to anyone interested in science, health or history. The Dr. has his own radio show on science so the topics are designed to entertain a wide audience. The commentaries are short and make sense in any order. I liked it so much I'm planning on reading one of Dr. Schwarcz's other collections of commentaries.

This is one of the best popular science books I have ever read, and the best chemistry book. Dr. Schwarz explains numerous chemistry topics amidst a background of truly interesting stories. I recommend this book to everyone with any interest in science.

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.

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