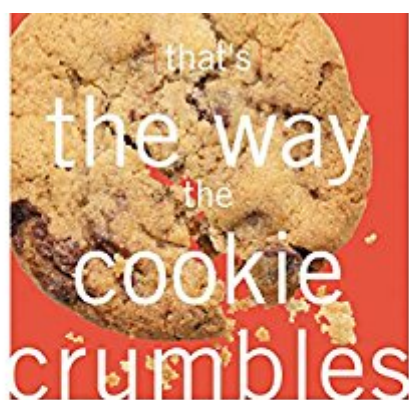


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That's The Way The Cookie Crumbles: 65 All New Commentaries On The Fascinating Chemistry Of Everyday Life



62 ALL-NEW COMMENTARIES

ON THE FASCINATING

CHEMISTRY OF EVERYDAY LIFE

[DR. JOE SCHWARCZ]

AUTHOR OF BADAR, WALKING HOOPS AND PLAYFUL FOOD & THE GENIE IN THE BOTTLE

"Joe Schwarcz's magic is in convincing us that there is sense and value in real chemistry."
—Kurt Hohenberg, Nobel Laureate



Synopsis

Interesting anecdotes and engaging tales make science fun, meaningful, and accessible.

Separating sense from nonsense and fact from myth, these essays cover everything from the ups of helium to the downs of drain cleaners and provide answers to numerous mysteries, such as why bug juice is used to color ice cream and how spies used secret inks. Mercury in teeth, arsenic in water, lead in the environment, and aspartame in food are discussed. Mythbusters include the fact that Edison did not invent the light bulb and that walking on hot coals does not require paranormal powers. The secret life of bagels is revealed, and airbags, beer, and soap yield their mysteries.

These and many more surprising, educational, and entertaining commentaries show the relevance of science to everyday life.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I picked up this book on whim, having never heard Dr. Schwarcz's radio program or seen him on television. I spent the next few days completely engrossed in his lively tales on the chemistry involved in our daily lives. Discussed here is the science behind ice cream, aspartame, wheat, bagels, paprika, beer and yes, cookies. Schwarcz also chimes in on the controversies over dental fillings, botulin, lead paints, DNA manipulation and genetic engineering. He shares fascinating stories about some of history's greatest scientists (of particular interest is the inventor of Nylon, who ended up committing suicide, and the man behind chemical warfare, who also saved millions of lives with his fertilizer experiments). There is also a section devoted to debunking health scams and

diffusing unnecessary paranoia. While I didn't agree with all of Schwarcz's opinions (I think he may be a little naive in regards to the dangers of genetic modification), the breadth of his scientific knowledge is impressive and his enthusiasm for science infectious. "The Way the Cookie Crumbles" is an entertaining and informative read for both the scientifically minded and those just interested in learning how to get ink stains out of their clothes (try using limonene or amyl acetate). GRADE: A-/B+

Everything Dr Schwarz writes is a masterpiece. As a professional chemist and longtime host of various radio and television science programs, he is able to explain chemistry to the rest of us. And what's even more important is that the subject never feels dry or academic - he presents great stories first and adds the chemistry lessons once you are hooked.

This book is an outstanding addition to the Dr. Joe books. For scientists AND novices alike, this book will entertain you with well written and down to earth stories about one of the most mystifying and misunderstood fields of study in the world. Best of all, the information in this book is not unreachable...but it is based on items that we encounter in day to day life. An entertaining and stimulating read for the inner curiosity that we all have!

My son uses this book with his high school chemistry students to teach them the science behind every day occurrences. Radar, Hula Hoops and Playful Pigs by the same author has even more examples. Could be nice as well for budding scientists and home school parents.

Director of the McGill University Office for Science and Society, phone in radio show host, and author, Professor Schwarcz examines scientific myths and wonders of everyday life. He elaborates on issues raised during his radio show with each section ranging from one to eight pages. A little over half of the book focuses on health issues such as scientific charlatans, various diets, artificial sweeteners, the mysteries of ice cream, various toxins and the need for vitamins. He follows this with a series of interesting scientific anecdotes on issues such as removing stains, matches, Teflon pots and pans, the electric light bulb, and soap. He follows a short section on the history of science with a discussion of scientific frauds and fakes. The book is interesting, fun and well written.

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