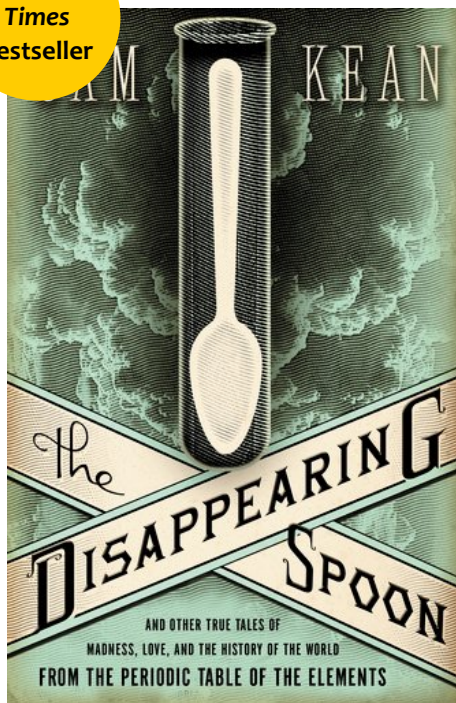


From the Big Bang to the End of Time — The Elements Come Alive in

THE DISAPPEARING SPOON

New York
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Sam Kean's work has appeared in the *New York Times*, *Slate*, *Air & Space/Smithsonian*, and *New Scientist*. In 2009 he was a runner-up for the *National Association of Science Writers' Evert Clark/Seth Payne Award* for best science writer under the age of thirty.

THE DISAPPEARING SPOON : AND OTHER TRUE TALES OF MADNESS, LOVE...

SAM KEAN

Now in international B-format. THE DISAPPEARING SPOON is the story of human history and the universe as told by each element of the periodic table—from King Midas to Marie Curie, and from Lewis and Clark to Dante and Twain. In THE DISAPPEARING SPOON, Sam Kean discovers the hidden tales and quirky details that show us how the elements relate to history, finance, alchemy, mythology, petty politics, poison, crime, war, the arts, and even love.

The periodic table is one of mankind's greatest intellectual achievements, and every element has a story. King Midas may just have been a Bronze Age entrepreneur. Marie Curie used to provoke jealousy in colleagues' wives when she'd invite them into closets to see her glow-in-the-dark experiments. Lewis and Clark swallowed mercury capsules across the country and their campsites are still detectable by the poison in the ground. Often funny, often dramatic, and always illuminating, THE DISAPPEARING SPOON reveals anecdotes about familiar elements like chlorine and carbon and ferrets out great tales about the more obscure elements buried in the nether regions of the table and the brilliant, passionate, and sometimes mad scientists who discovered them. From the Big Bang to the end of time, it's all in here. Chemistry class has never been such fun.