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The Elements: A Visual Exploration of Every Known Atom in the Universe by Theodore Gray, Black Dog and Leventhal, 2009

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The Elements: A Visual Exploration of Every Known Atom in the universe

by Theodore Gray, Black Dog and Leventhal, 2009

Reviewed by Adam M. Azman

Everything that is tangible is made up of molecules, and every molecule is made up of elements. (Sorry, this means that nothing you buy can ever be "100% chemical free"). Theodore Gray dives into the artistic world of these elements in his book *The Elements: A Visual Exploration of Every Known Atom in the Universe*.

This wonderful coffee table book will first make you marvel in awe at the exquisite beauty of the full-page spectacular photographs of each element in its pure form. Next, you will wonder in amazement at the wealth of knowledge packed into a few short paragraphs of history about each element. Gray's humorous and informative writing style is a pleasure to read, considering the subject matter. Finally, for the academics, the margin of each page gives a few physical properties of each element.

But the real draw of this book is the photographs. Hundreds of photographs cover every page of this book, and every time you open to a random page you will fall in love with a new element. Turn the page again, and you'll discover something new about an element you thought was commonplace. Gray does a masterful job giving the casual reader an unprecedented glimpse into the magnificent splendor chemistry in its element.

-Adam Azman is a lecturer in organic chemistry at Butler University.