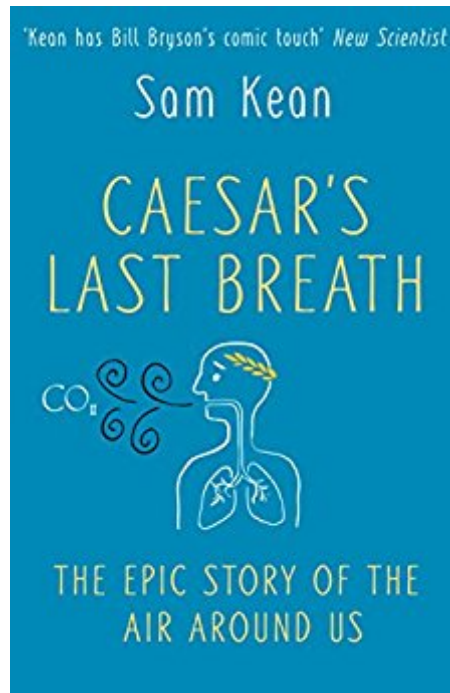




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Caesar's Last Breath: The Epic Story Of The Air Around Us



Synopsis

It's invisible. It's ever-present. Without it, you would die in minutes. And it has an epic story to tell. In *Caesar's Last Breath*, New York Times bestselling author Sam Kean takes us on a journey through the periodic table, around the globe, and across time to tell the story of the air we breathe, which, it turns out, is also the story of earth and our existence on it. With every breath, you literally inhale the history of the world. On the ides of March, 44 BC, Julius Caesar died of stab wounds on the Senate floor, but the story of his last breath is still unfolding; in fact, you're probably inhaling some of it now. Of the sextillions of molecules entering or leaving your lungs at this moment, some might well bear traces of Cleopatra's perfumes, German mustard gas, particles exhaled by dinosaurs or emitted by atomic bombs, even remnants of stardust from the universe's creation. Tracing the origins and ingredients of our atmosphere, Kean reveals how the alchemy of air reshaped our continents, steered human progress, powered revolutions, and continues to influence everything we do. Along the way, we'll swim with radioactive pigs, witness the most important chemical reactions humans have discovered, and join the crowd at the Moulin Rouge for some of the crudest performance art of all time. Lively, witty, and filled with the astounding science of ordinary life, *Caesar's Last Breath* illuminates the science stories swirling around us every second.

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Customer Reviews

The science in this book was understandable until we got to the present time and radioactive materials, then it was somewhat over my head. But explaining how the components in air are the basis for everything was wonderfully interesting and for the most part within my ken. The author does a great job of inserting lots of humor to soften some of those hard scientific edges.

This is wonderful for anybody with some scientific (even very little) knowledge. Particularly for people who have forgotten their science education it is just riveting and written with huge energy and indeed not a little humour. A lovely read from a guy who must have a lovely mind. More please.

great resource for my students to learn the topic of elements on the periodic table.

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