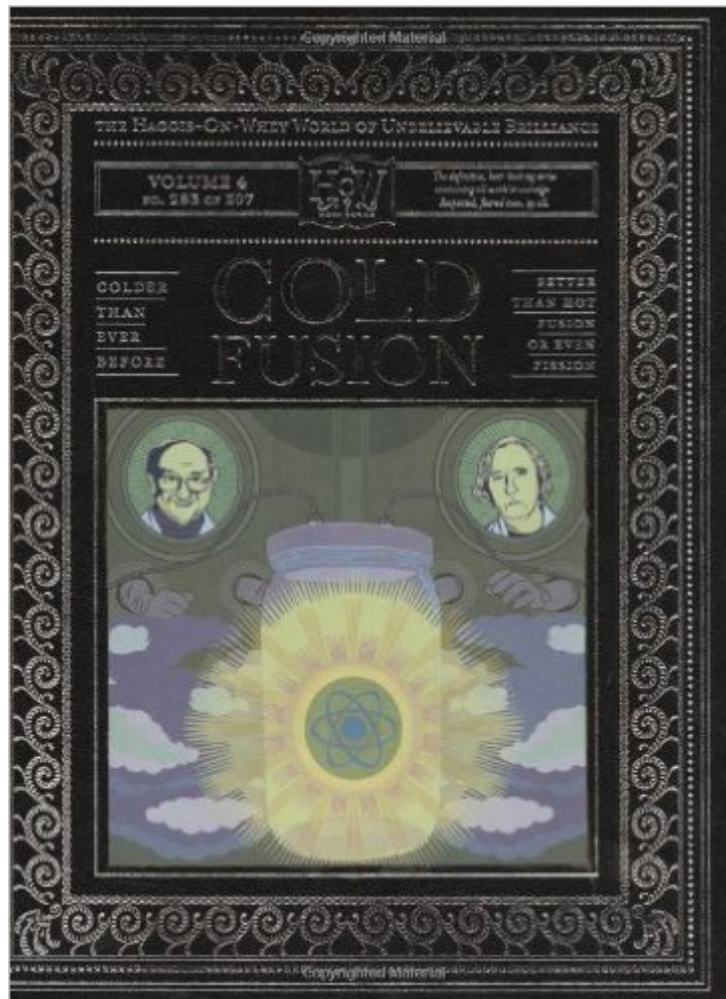


The book was found

Cold Fusion (The Haggis-On-Whey World Of Unbelievable Brilliance)



Synopsis

For many years the scientific and educational communities have wondered and worried about the possibility that semi-sane scholar-pretenders would find the means to publish a series of reference books aimed at children but filled with ludicrous misinformation. These books would be distributed through respectable channels and would inevitably find their way into the hands and households of well-meaning families, who would go to them for facts but instead find bizarre untruths. The books would look normal enough but would read as if written by people who should not have written them. Sadly, that day is upon us. The fourth book in the HOW series, Cold Fusion, is to be feared. Like its predecessors, Giraffes? Giraffes! and Animals of the Ocean, Cold Fusion must also be kept far from the young people in your life. This book reveals the secrets of cold fusion, one of the most controversial scientific pursuits that can be conducted in a bathtub.

Book Information

Series: The Haggis-On-Whey World of Unbelievable Brilliance (Book 4)

Hardcover: 64 pages

Publisher: McSweeney's (January 27, 2009)

Language: English

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Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (9 customer reviews)

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[Entertainment > Humor > Science & Scientists](#) #11002 in [Books > Science & Math > Physics](#)

#11152 in [Books > Children's Books > Science, Nature & How It Works](#)

Age Range: 9 and up

Grade Level: 3 and up

Customer Reviews

"Cold Fusion" is another brilliant entry in annals of scientific knowledge from Dr. Doris Haggis-On-Whey with assistance from her husband, Benny. This volume explains all aspects of cold fusion, including some that even Pons and Fleischmann could have never imagined. "The History of Cold Fusion" is presented as a colorful timeline on pp. 10-11, and is a good starting point for understanding this book, superimposed as it is over a timeline of Eddie Money's career (note the

proximity of the release of Money's monster hits "Baby Hold On" and "Two Tickets to Paradise" to Dr. Mizuno's observation of charged particles from palladium deuterides, which he attributed to instrumentation error). Other vital areas of exploration include a handy table explaining why Tim Conway, Helen Hunt, and General Pervez Musharraf will never be good at cold fusion, a poem in epic verse about cold fusion by Lord Byron, the Russian invention of fruit fusion, and a thorough analysis of why birds are bad at building superconductors. For anyone who enjoys satire, humor, or science, the Haggis-On-Whey series can expand your world view in many new and unexpected ways, and for that reason alone I recommend it. Besides, without Dr. Doris and Benny to help me I would still be attempting to confirm a tritium sample with a mass spectrometer, and we wouldn't want that now, would we?

If you're looking for the inspired wackiness which characterized the first book of this series (and was mostly re-captured in the third book) - you will be disappointed. Sure, the non sequiturs are there - but the phrase "too much of a good thing" comes to mind. Perhaps the humor is more apparent to anyone working in a field where much time is spent in a laboratory; for the non-lab-dwellers, this book is only so-so. There are moments when the brilliance of the first and third books shine through, but, for the most part, the laughs are fewer and farther between. Overall, a rather disappointing entry into the increasingly uneven Haggis-On-Whey series.

Are you interested in cold fusion? Would you like to everything there is to know about cold fusion? In that case, you'll want to look somewhere else besides Dr. Doris Haggis-on-Whey's Cold Fusion, volume 4 in Dr. and Mrs. Doris Haggis-on-Whey's World of Unbelievable Brilliance. But if you couldn't care less about cold fusion, don't know what it is, or just want a few laughs, Cold Fusion is the book for you. Enlightened readers who are familiar with Dr. Haggis-on-Whey's work will enjoy the nonsensical, random, and beautifully illustrated content. She reveals the fates of "people who scoffed at cold fusion." She warns of the "possible side effects of room-temperature nuclear reactions," including frogmen and Kevin Spacey movies set in Nova Scotia. And, of course, "why birds are bad at building superconductors" and how noble gases became noble. Cold Fusion contains plenty of laugh-out-loud moments. But the ratio of laugh-out-loud moments per page seemed noticeably lower than previous H-O-W books. You'll have to take my word for it. By the way, some of the funniest parts are the captions and footnotes. Don't skip the small print.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book, but it is definitely something that not all audiences will "get". All of the

HOW books are essentially sarcastic/satirical/ironic/parodic/etc. versions of old encyclopedic volumes aimed at children. The central theme of the the widely publicized (at the time) "discovery" of cold fusion in the '90s. If you don't remember that then you probably won't enjoy this volume as much as the other HOW books, but there are still plenty of random themes going on as well.

I cannot say enough good things about this book, so I will just say: buy it. If you find you don't like it, I am sure you can think of someone who will and give it to them. They will be impressed.

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