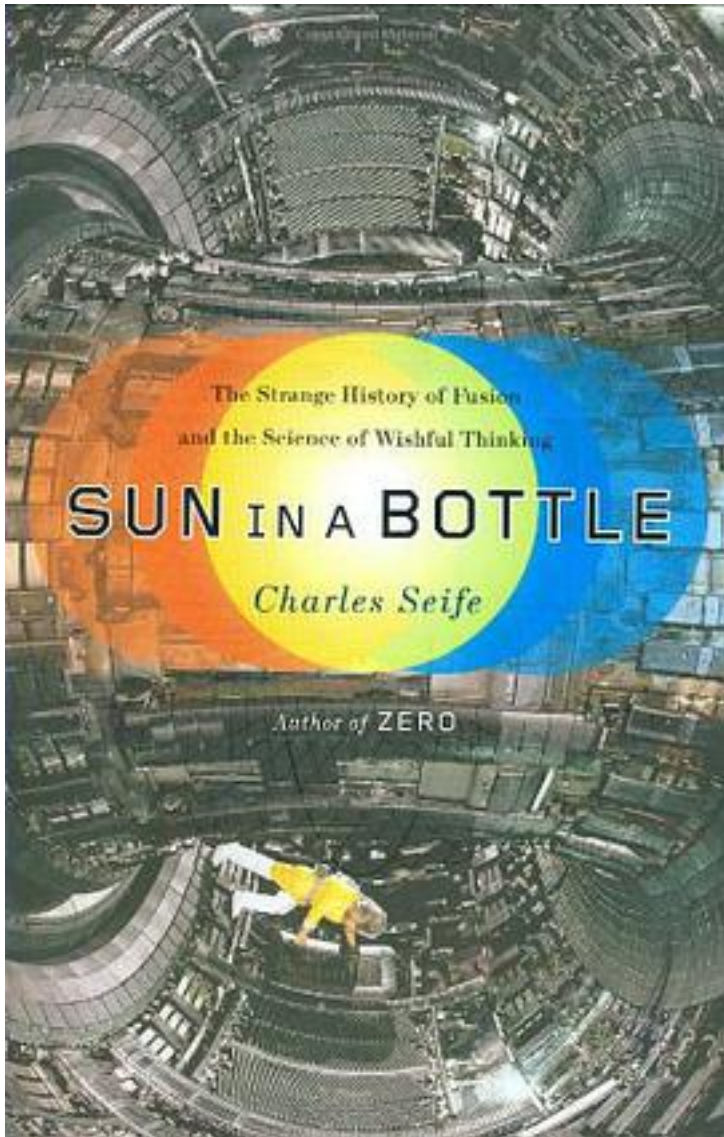


Sun in a Bottle



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著者:Charles Seife

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When weapons builders detonated the first hydrogen bomb in 1952, they tapped into the biggest source of energy in our solar system — the phenomenon that makes the sun shine. Nuclear fusion seems a virtually unlimited source of power, but it has been at the center of a tragic and comic pursuit that has left scores of scientists battered and disgraced. Like the eternal quest to build a perpetual motion machine, the dream of harnessing the energy of a miniature star is irresistible. Not only would a fusion energy device give the world endless electrical power, it would give power to its inventors a financial power, the power of fame, even military might. Right now the world's richest countries are spending billions of dollars trying to build a giant fusion reactor. Yet if history is any guide, the money will not bring the dream of fusion energy within reach. Indeed, the quest for fusion energy has been a failure, generation after generation. Fusion is at the heart of some of the biggest scientific scandals of all time, and Charles Seife traces its story from its beginning into the twenty-first century. Even after fusion scientists face defeat after defeat, they continue trying to put the sun in a bottle, hoping against hope that they will succeed where others have failed. The science of wishful thinking is as strong as ever, and this book is our key to understanding why.

作者介绍:

查尔斯·塞费，出版了4本个人著作，其中包括《瓶中的太阳》和《零》，后者是首部荣获美国马尔塔·阿尔布朗文学奖的非小说类文学作品，也是《纽约时报》推荐图书。他的个人作品经常见于《科学》、《纽约时报》、《新科学家》、《科学美国人》、《经济学家》和《连线》等报刊杂志上。他生活在纽约，现任纽约大学新闻学教授。

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标签

评论

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书评

每个科学领域都有其丑闻与背叛者。这里既有生物学家，也有材料学家、物理学家、化学家和地质学家。然而，关于核聚变，有些情况略有不同——那种无限聚变能之梦使一代又一代的科学家欺骗了自己。
对于任何能够利用微型恒星之能量的人来说，核聚变还允诺有权力。它不仅把取之不...

这不是一本科普书。虽然作者有理科硕士文凭，但本书内容更符合他另一个身份：大学新闻教授。开头约1/4的篇幅讲的是核聚变的武器起源中的政治斗争 -----
特勒与奥本海默的恩怨（原来第一个成功的氢弹理论模型并非出自特勒）；随后便转入“瓶中（可控）的太阳（核聚变）”正题...

摘录：
科学方法的全部意义，就在于设法把科学的故事和写这个故事科学家的一厢情愿的想法和过失隔绝开来。写东西的时候要小心，切记：指动字成，字成指动。
任你如何至诚，如何机智，难叫他收回成命消去半行，任你眼泪流完也难洗掉一字。
随笔：看到莱恩例子的时候，有这...

我想起了九色鹿的故事。九色鹿自由自在地生活在戈壁滩上，帮助着遇到困难的人们。愚蠢的人类想要占有九色鹿，一个忘恩负义之人将九色鹿引入包围圈，对其围攻射杀，结果九色鹿释放神力，将利剑化为灰烬，恶人终得惩罚。
现在人类想要降服的不是九色鹿了，而变成了太阳。当科学家...

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