

# Sacramento Book Review



Below is a clipping of your book review that appeared in the January 09 issue of the *Sacramento Book Review*. Thank you for sending us the book.

## Sun in a Bottle

By Charles Seife

Viking, \$25.95, 304 pages

Nuclear fission has been a “just a bit down the road” potential energy source for decades. Seife explores the history of fusion research, from the early military experiments to many of the paths of research (legitimate or otherwise) in recent years. There is noticeable attention given to the failures and the frauds - Pons and Fleischmann’s cold fusion announcement as the poster child - and not as much in the most current research done by reputable scientists and institutions.

Some of the ideas and projects done or suggested over the years are highly ludicrous (exploding a hydrogen bomb on the moon) and are always easy to mock. The bias here is definitely

against fusion, and after a couple of chapters it becomes clear that this isn’t a book about the history of fusion, but more about the failures and absurdities of the dreamers and scammers (as should have been evident in the subtitle - *The Strange History of Fusion and the Science of Wishful Thinking*.) If you realize its weakness, Sun in a Bottle is an interesting look at the oddities of fusion research, but isn’t a fair look at the entire field.

