



The Most Beautiful Molecule: The Discovery of the Buckyball

Hugh Aldersey-Williams

Download now

[Click here](#) if your download doesn't start automatically

The Most Beautiful Molecule: The Discovery of the Buckyball

Hugh Aldersey-Williams

The Most Beautiful Molecule: The Discovery of the Buckyball Hugh Aldersey-Williams

The Most Beautiful Molecule

"The molecule, buckminsterfullerene, is beautiful physically and intellectually. Its qualities, and even some of its properties, can be appreciated instantly and intuitively by nonscientists. Its uniqueness is bound to lead to novel applications-superconductivity is the leading contender at the moment."

"The commercial potential of buckminsterfullerene has heightened the excitement and controversy in recent years, while the exact nature of the discovery process in 1985 has been the subject of a heated feud between the British and American scientists involved."-Hugh Aldersey-Williams

Ten years ago, the discovery of buckminsterfullerene, a previously unknown form of carbon, stunned the scientific community, as much for the discovery itself as for the manner in which it came about. In the words of author Hugh Aldersey-Williams, it was an example of "classic bootleg science". The work was done on the back of other, funded projects, and when time would allow. Yet its commercial implications are probably immense.

Now, with objectivity and insight, *The Most Beautiful Molecule* recounts the events leading up to this momentous discovery and chronicles the ongoing, often frenzied aftermath. Hugh Aldersey-Williams leads us on a thrilling expedition to the very forefront of modern chemistry research.

Houston, Texas, 1985. Two industrious chemists discover a previously unknown form of carbon and christen it buckminsterfullerene, for its striking resemblance to American architect Richard Buckminster Fuller's geodesic domes. This unusual molecule-also known as the buckyball-is composed of 60 carbon atoms arranged in a hollow sphere, with hexagonal and pentagonal configurations similar to those found on a soccer ball. Its near-perfect symmetry is just one reason why scientists have since dubbed it "the most beautiful molecule."

The discovery of buckminsterfullerene-by American physicist and chemist Richard Smalley and British physical chemist Harry Kroto-rocked the scientific community. After all, generations believed graphite and diamond to be the only pure forms of carbon. How had this third form gone undetected?

In fact, the actual discovery was merely the beginning of an intense-and ongoing-quest to master this newest form of the most basic of elements. Confirmation would take five years and launch an unprecedented flood of investigation and investment. The unique physical structure of buckminsterfullerene-a "cage" into which atoms of other materials may be inserted-had huge commercial potential and inspired scientists, industrial laboratories, and corporations alike. Backed by such giants as AT&T, DuPont, Exxon, and IBM, a highly competitive search for practical applications began-and continues. Possibilities range from the creation of a revolutionary rocket fuel to nanotechnology-the construction of microscopic "molecular machines"-to developments in the fight against AIDS.

Here, then, is a fascinating, multilayered look at one of the most important scientific findings of our time. *The Most Beautiful Molecule* is a brain-teasing detective story, a marvelously detailed, inside look at the workings of the scientific community, and an exciting contemplation of what lies ahead. From the forefront

of research in modern chemistry, author Hugh Aldersey-Williams offers, in his own words, "a celebration of the intimate world of physical science and its practitioners."

 [**Download** The Most Beautiful Molecule: The Discovery of the ...pdf](#)

 [**Read Online** The Most Beautiful Molecule: The Discovery of th ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The Most Beautiful Molecule: The Discovery of the Buckyball Hugh Aldersey-Williams

From reader reviews:

Raymond Harris:

Why don't make it to be your habit? Right now, try to ready your time to do the important behave, like looking for your favorite guide and reading a book. Beside you can solve your trouble; you can add your knowledge by the publication entitled The Most Beautiful Molecule: The Discovery of the Buckyball. Try to the actual book The Most Beautiful Molecule: The Discovery of the Buckyball as your pal. It means that it can to be your friend when you feel alone and beside associated with course make you smarter than ever before. Yeah, it is very fortunated to suit your needs. The book makes you far more confidence because you can know anything by the book. So , let's make new experience along with knowledge with this book.

Ralph Overman:

Reading a guide can be one of a lot of exercise that everyone in the world adores. Do you like reading book consequently. There are a lot of reasons why people fantastic. First reading a book will give you a lot of new info. When you read a guide you will get new information because book is one of a number of ways to share the information or their idea. Second, reading through a book will make you actually more imaginative. When you reading through a book especially fiction book the author will bring someone to imagine the story how the people do it anything. Third, you can share your knowledge to other individuals. When you read this The Most Beautiful Molecule: The Discovery of the Buckyball, you are able to tells your family, friends and also soon about yours e-book. Your knowledge can inspire others, make them reading a publication.

Joseph Myrick:

The reserve untitled The Most Beautiful Molecule: The Discovery of the Buckyball is the reserve that recommended to you to study. You can see the quality of the book content that will be shown to you actually. The language that creator use to explained their way of doing something is easily to understand. The copy writer was did a lot of exploration when write the book, and so the information that they share to you is absolutely accurate. You also can get the e-book of The Most Beautiful Molecule: The Discovery of the Buckyball from the publisher to make you much more enjoy free time.

Joseph Felder:

The e-book with title The Most Beautiful Molecule: The Discovery of the Buckyball has lot of information that you can understand it. You can get a lot of help after read this book. That book exist new expertise the information that exist in this guide represented the condition of the world now. That is important to yo7u to understand how the improvement of the world. That book will bring you with new era of the the positive effect. You can read the e-book on your own smart phone, so you can read it anywhere you want.

**Download and Read Online The Most Beautiful Molecule: The
Discovery of the Buckyball Hugh Aldersey-Williams
#35X2OTWRPGZ**

Read The Most Beautiful Molecule: The Discovery of the Buckyball by Hugh Aldersey-Williams for online ebook

The Most Beautiful Molecule: The Discovery of the Buckyball by Hugh Aldersey-Williams Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read The Most Beautiful Molecule: The Discovery of the Buckyball by Hugh Aldersey-Williams books to read online.

Online The Most Beautiful Molecule: The Discovery of the Buckyball by Hugh Aldersey-Williams ebook PDF download

The Most Beautiful Molecule: The Discovery of the Buckyball by Hugh Aldersey-Williams Doc

The Most Beautiful Molecule: The Discovery of the Buckyball by Hugh Aldersey-Williams Mobipocket

The Most Beautiful Molecule: The Discovery of the Buckyball by Hugh Aldersey-Williams EPub