

Dear Brian Greene,

When friends come to visit at my house, they see warning signs on my door saying “High Voltage! Neutron Radiation!” This is because last spring, I took on the task of building a fusion reactor which is now operational and in a research phase. Thanks to the inspiration that I received from reading your book, *The Elegant Universe*, I have committed my life to a future in nuclear physics. Last year, I was searching for informational books on particle physics since this was an interest of mine; however, I found it difficult to find higher level materials that didn’t require college mathematics knowledge. The solution was your book, which I quickly read and have since been fascinated by the subject. The way that advanced topics are portrayed in a simple to understand and intriguing fashion make the book a brilliant piece of work that any aspiring physicist should read.

I vividly recall two nights regarding my fascination with high energy physics. The first of those was the evening that I obtained a copy of *The Elegant Universe* after it was suggested to me as an excellent resource in string theory and quantum mechanics. I don’t think I ever went to bed that night while I devoured as much literature as I could. Within a week, I had completed the book and realized that my future was in this field. The other event that I recall was when I was searching for a science project online and stumbled upon fusor.net, a research consortium dedicated to amateur nuclear fusion. I was immediately driven to build a reactor and spent the coming weeks drawing up schematics, planning every aspect, and ordering parts from all sorts of surplus lab suppliers. I know that the future of global energy demand is a pressing issue on society, and I wanted to contribute to this by researching this potential source of clean energy.

Shortly after convincing a gas supplier to sell me deuterium gas as a fuel source and obtaining radiation detection equipment, I found myself with a functioning device that performs a deuterium fusion reaction. I am now moving on to research unique modifications that will hopefully lead to a more efficient device that brings us closer to having clean fusion power generators. I don’t know how far this project will take me, but I do know that I can attribute any success to the inspiration that I received by reading *The Elegant Universe*.

It’s books like these that provide a sense of hope for the future of science in my mind. Fewer and fewer students are being excited about science at a young age which is going to impact the future of innovations that humanity sees. Beginners in science can read literature such as this book in order to gain a further understanding of the subject along with a drive of curiosity without needing special education just to get through it. Thank you for writing such a fantastic book and I hope many more students are inspired by it.

Tyler Christensen