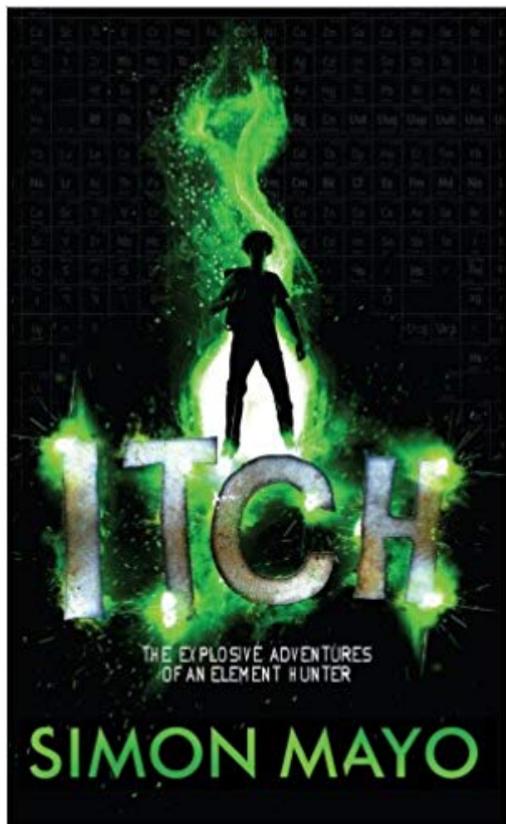


## Itch by Simon Mayo



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**ISBN:** 0857531301

**ISBN13:** 978-0857531308

**Author:** Simon Mayo

**Book title:** Itch

**Pages:** 416

**Publisher:** Doubleday Children's; First Edition, First Printing edition (March 1, 2012)

**Language:** English

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A great debut ...you'll be itching to read more.' Anthony Horowitz. Meet Itch - an accidental, accident-prone hero. Science is his weapon. Elements are his gadgets. This is Alex Rider with Geek-Power! Itchingham Loft - known as Itch - is fourteen, and loves science - especially chemistry. He's also an element-hunter: he's decided to collect all the elements in the periodic table. Which has some interesting and rather destructive results in his bedroom ...Then, Itch makes a discovery. A new element, never seen before. At first no one believes him - but soon, someone hears about the strange new rock and wants it for himself. And Itch is in serious danger ...



## Reviews of the Itch by Simon Mayo

Gardataur

The book is readable and the characters have their own personalities which leads to involvement in the plot and a curiosity to find what happens next. The best judges are the students of our book club who met at an 'Itchfest' after school, arranging English refreshments and planning to meet again in September to review the second book in the series.

Steamy Ibis

This book series was recommend by Jason Issacs on his Twitter account. My daughter loves this series. It should have received more attention from book readers.

Ishnjurus

Great series and educational. Fast and enjoyable read.

Pedora

Good debut effort from BBC Radio 2 presenter Simon Mayo. Has some good science-related content, but not so much that it would turn off people who aren't interested in that kind of thing. Even though it's a young adult novel, older folks should find it to be a good read as well. Looking forward to the next book in the series!

Gaiauaco

Love this new series. It is like the Alex Rider Series, Jason Steed Series. If you like them you will love Itch.

Kriau

I heard about this book in chemistry circles and was intrigued by the idea of an adolescent adventure in which the hero's knowledge of chemistry starts him on a great adventure and allows him to prevail against terrible odds. Simon Mayo's execution, however, fails to live up the potential of this premise. The plot revolves around a set of mysterious, intensely radioactive rocks that land in the possession of a teenage boy called "Itch." The rocks are given to him by a dealer in elements named Cake, who in turn got them from an unnamed source who is supposed to have found them in a slag heap. The origin sequence is bizarre, and serves to set up a mystery about the ultimate source of the rocks, a mystery that is not resolved (and really, barely even addressed) in the text. They may as well have been handed down from a UFO.

The book mostly takes place after Itch has the rocks, and describes the efforts made by evil energy company scientists and executives to steal them, and the inanity of this book is most painful when we follow these antagonists. Evidently, one of the largest and most powerful petroleum companies in the world (it seems to be based on Royal Dutch Shell) had fired one of their chief scientists for his role in a drilling accident off the coast of Africa. However, rather than just firing him, they banished him to teach science in a small town in Cornwall. Why? Improbably, he maintains an elaborate scientific laboratory in his cottage, including equipment for handling and analyzing radioactive materials. Why? Anyway, he gets his hands on Itch's first rock and is almost instantly able to identify it as the hitherto never seen element 126 (sure.) His employers are impressed by the potential this substance has to revolutionize the world, and decide their best move is to steal it and give some to terrorists. Sigh.

It gets dumber from there. Itch and his companions suffer from radiation sickness that gets stronger or weaker in response to the demands of the plot. The totally inadequate shielding that leaves them all near death is nonetheless adequate to prevent any sort of tracking by authorities afterwards. A mysterious party (perhaps the same one who produced the rock in the first place) helps Itch near the end (but why not sooner?).

It's a muddle. There are better books out there for scientifically minded youth.

MegaStar

Wonderful books to read with kids, loved the science geek character, a refreshing change. As good as Harry Potter. Looking forward to reading the next.

Great story line, love the App that goes with book. Mind blowing if such a thing was true. I loved it.

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