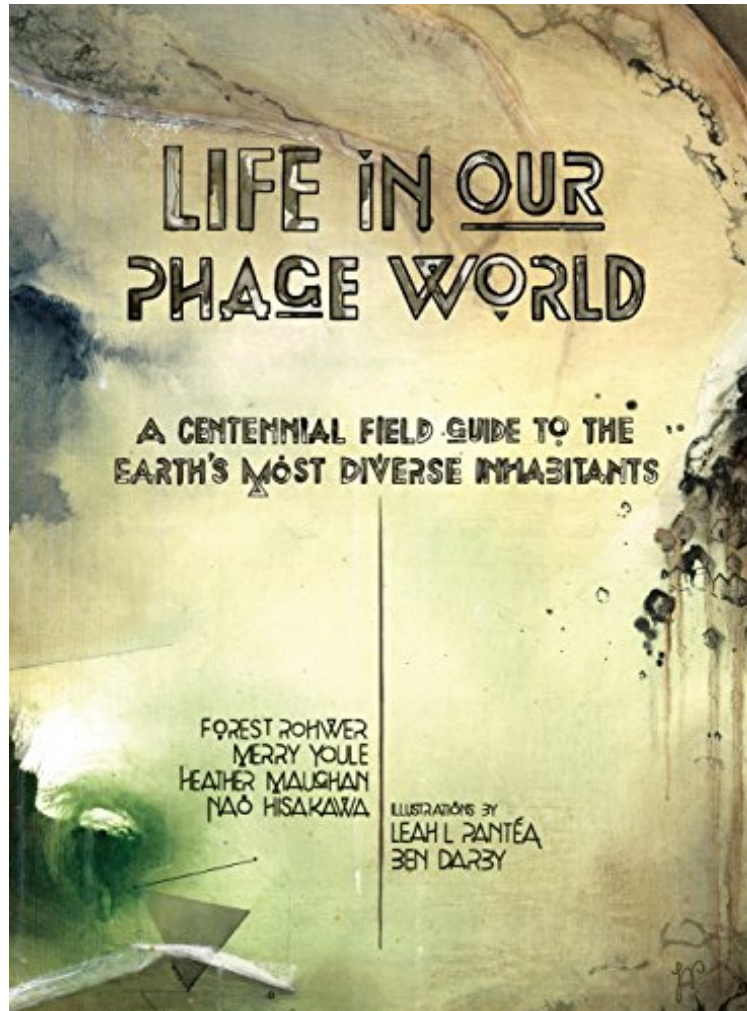


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Life in Our Phage World

Forest Rohwer, Merry Youle, Heather Maughan, Nao Hisakawa
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Forest Rohwer, Merry Youle, Heather Maughan, Nao Hisakawa : Life in Our Phage World before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Life in Our Phage World:

7 of 8 people found the following review helpful. At the intersection of virology, art, and fine writing. By Mark O. Martin I have to tell you: I adore this book, and for a number of important reasons. First, it is an accessible introduction and reminder of how central viruses are to the biosphere, with a unique and engaging perspective. With all the talk about the "microbiome" in the news, the more numerous and just as important "virobiome" does not get as much attention or PR. We tend to reflexively think of viruses as "bad," when in fact viruses help keep ecological systems in balance (and that may very well include issues of human health). Bacteriophages, bacterial viruses, are not only fascinating as a model system, genetic tool, and driver of ecological balance....but beautiful to behold. This brings me to something special about this fine book, by authors possessing expertise, writing chops, and enthusiasm (as well as

quirky humor): the artwork. I am used to "scientific publications" being somewhat dry and technical. Not so with this publication. This is a beautiful as well as informative tome. If you have any interest in the intersection of art and biology, this book is simply a "must have." Let me say something really important to finish up this review: the system states that this book is "temporarily out of stock," and implies it will take some time to receive. I ordered my copy early January, and received it in less than a week. I have no explanation for the verbiage. If you order this lovely book, you will get it quickly. It's a great book, and sits with pride on my office bookshelf. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Deyvid Amgarten Wonderful book, a master piece! 4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Encouraged me to learn about strange tiny organisms I had never heard of. By Greenlake DD This book stimulated me to start learning about contemporary biology. The last time I had a biology class was in 1961! The drawings really made it fun to read. I also got the book within a week of ordering it.

We share the Earth with more than 10,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 phages. Everywhere they thrive, from well-fed guts to near-boiling acidic springs, from cryoconite holes to endolithic fissures. They travel from one microbial host to the next as virions, their genetic weapons packaged inside a protective protein shell. If you could lay all of these nanoscopic phage virions side-by-side, the line-up would stretch over 42 million light years. Through their daily shenanigans they kill or collaborate with their microbial hosts to spur microbial evolution and maintain ecosystem functioning. We have learned much about them since their discovery by Frederick Twort a century ago. They also taught us that DNA, not protein, is the hereditary material, unraveled the triplet genetic code, and offered their enzymes as indispensable tools for the molecular biology revolution. More contributions will be forthcoming since the vast majority of phages await discovery. Phage genomes harbor the world's largest cache of unexplored genetic diversity, and we now have the equipment needed to go prospecting.

"...spectacular, unique, trailblazing...I have never seen such a display of scholarship and artistry. You have freed scientific writing from its conventional shackles." -Moselio Schaechter, Distinguished Professor, emeritus, Tufts University, and author of *Microbe and In the Company of Mushrooms*