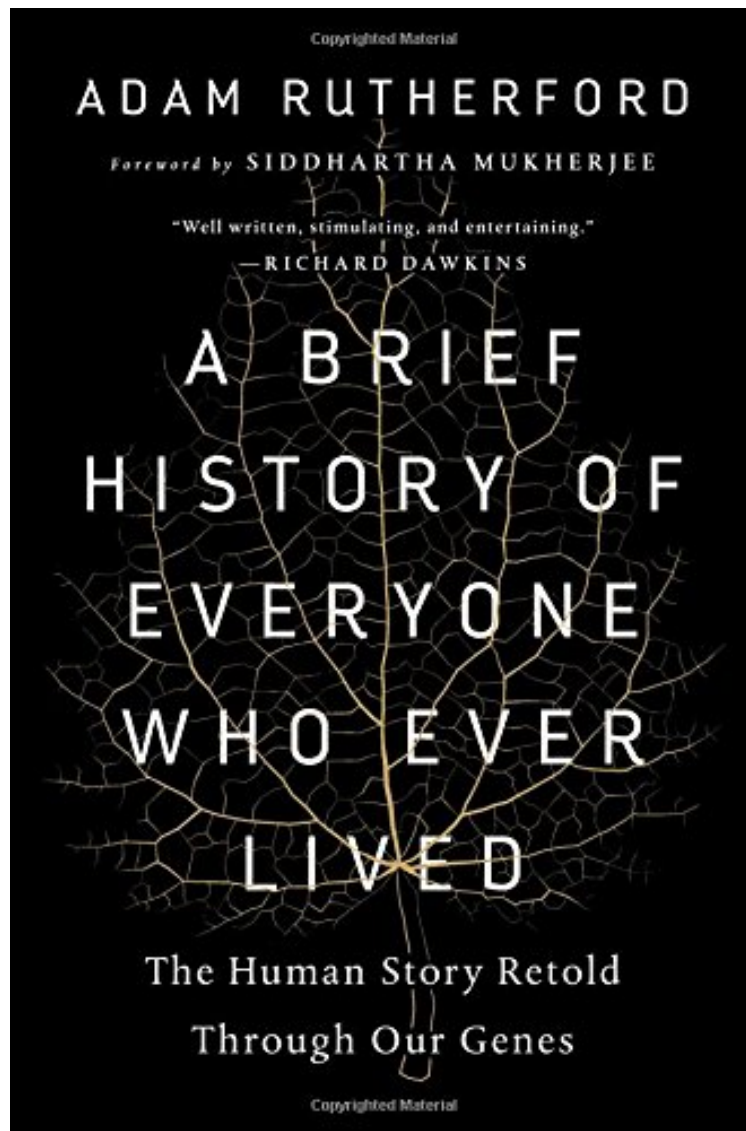


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A Brief History of Everyone Who Ever Lived: The Human Story Retold Through Our Genes

Adam Rutherford

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Adam Rutherford : A Brief History of Everyone Who Ever Lived: The Human Story Retold Through Our Genes before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Brief History of Everyone Who Ever Lived: The Human Story Retold Through Our Genes:

22 of 24 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating Story About UsBy Maxine McListerDNA has been

much in the new in the last couple of decades questions about eg. the future of redheads or the existence of a warrior gene and its recent use in court cases. Geneticist Adam Rutherford looks at these and many more issues in his fascinating and highly readable book *A Brief History of Everyone Who Ever Lived*. He talks about the Human Genome Project and its importance to science as well as the rise of genetic testing companies like 23 and Me (he had himself tested with mostly unsurprising results). He also writes about race which doesn't exist and racism which does and how so many white supremacists are having their DNA tested to often disappointing (for them) results. As is pointed out in the cover blurb to this book, the history of our species from its beginning to the present is written in our genes an epic poem in our cells and Rutherford tells it very well, making it not only interesting but accessible to even those like me without a scientific background but with a curiosity to know more about who we are, where we came from, and where we are likely heading. As he shows, we have adapted genetically in wonderful ways that are fit for purpose anyone who may be hoping that we will eventually sprout wings so that we can fly without airline tickets is probably going to be disappointed. Most of all, he shows that our genes prove that we humans are unique and special just like every other species. Thanks to Netgalley and The Experiment for the opportunity to read this book in exchange for an honest review. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A great, entertaining look at humanity through genetics. By Steve GI loved this book. It is the second by Adam Rutherford that I've read and I enjoyed it as much as I did the first, *Creation*. Rutherford writes in plain language and although it is a science book, it reads more like a novel. It is a meandering but fascinating look at human history through DNA, but in jargon-free language. What I like best about the book are: the message that we are all interconnected; Rutherford's great use of the alphabet as an analog for genes and DNA; and Rutherford's great sense of humor. His description of a medical symposium is as funny as anything I've read. I have read a few history of humanity books lately and not many can match Rutherford's. One that is a match is *Built on Bones* by Brenna Hassett but both of these books are far superior to Peter Ungars *Evolution's Bite*. I strongly recommend Rutherford's book for anyone interested in science. Disclosure: I received a complimentary copy of this book via Netgalley for review purposes. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. People By KALBO OI't's a great book to hide in..

An effervescent work, brimming with tales and confounding ideas carried in the epic poem in our cells. *Guardian* In our unique genomes, every one of us carries the story of our species' births, deaths, disease, war, famine, migration, and a lot of sex. But those stories have always been locked away until now. Who are our ancestors? Where did they come from? Geneticists have suddenly become historians, and the hard evidence in our DNA has blown the lid off what we thought we knew. Acclaimed science writer Adam Rutherford explains exactly how genomics is completely rewriting the human story from 100,000 years ago to the present. *A Brief History of Everyone Who Ever Lived* will upend your thinking on Neanderthals, evolution, royalty, race, and even redheads. (For example, we now know that at least four human species once roamed the earth.) Plus, here is the remarkable, controversial story of how our genes made their way to the Americas one that's still being written, as ever more of us have our DNA sequenced. Rutherford closes with *A Short Introduction to the Future of Humankind*, filled with provocative questions that were on the cusp of answering: Are we still in the grasp of natural selection? Are we evolving for better or worse? And . . . where do we go from here?

.com An Best Book of October 2017: Our obsession with where we come from has recently leapfrogged past the genealogy efforts of retired relatives to mail-in DNA tests that can provide the broad strokes of our genetic makeup for less than \$100. But, as Rutherford points out in his intriguing exploration of humankind, DNA tests offer only a sensationalized peek at our roots, and the tangled, still-evolving truth is far more fascinating. Armed with his disarming British wit, Rutherford delves into the migration, interbreeding and isolation, and extinction of hominid branches that has shaped the modern human. Holes in our fossil record and the lack of DNA in fossils we've actually found still make genome research a challenge, yet the more we learn, the more we have to change our perception of who *Homo sapiens* are and what we're made of. Challenging the simplistic thinking bolstered by the media, Rutherford adds both nuance and the thrill of excitement to viewing our species through a wider, stronger lens that can now see deep into our past. Adrian Liang, *The Book* Rutherford raises significant questions and explains complex topics well, engaging readers with humor and smooth prose. Publishers Weekly, starred review A sweeping new view of the human evolution story, using the latest science of DNA as the central guide . . . Recommended. *Scientific American* Adam Rutherford's *A Brief History of Everyone Who Ever Lived* is the book we need. PZ Myers Challenging the simplistic thinking bolstered by the media, Rutherford adds both nuance and the thrill of excitement to viewing our species through a wider, stronger lens that can now see deep into our past. Book , Top 10 Editors Pick of October 2017 [Rutherford's] head-on, humane approach to such charged and misunderstood topics as intelligence and race make this an indispensable contribution to the popular science genre. Apples iBooks Best Book of September 2017 An enthusiastic history of mankind in which DNA plays a far greater role than the traditional bones and stones approach, followed by a hopeful if cautionary account of what the recent revolution in genomics foretells . . . Often quirky but thoughtful solid popular science. Kirkus By turns amusing and provocative, this book, which may bruise the egos of a

few genealogists, will appeal to both popular and technical science readers. Library Journal Ambitious, wide-ranging, and deeply researched, Rutherford's book sets out to describe the history of the human species from our origins as a slight, sly, naked, apelike creature somewhere in Africa to our gradual spread across the globe and our dominion over the planet. from the foreword by Siddhartha Mukherjee You couldn't ask for a better guide to the complex, often bewildering world of genetics than Adam Rutherford, who guides the reader with a deft hand through an ambitious tour of human history seen through the lens of cutting-edge genomics research. A Brief History of Everyone Who Ever Lived is equal parts informative, engaging, and frequently surprising a must-read for fans of big-picture popular science. Jennifer Ouellette, author of *Me, Myself, and Why: Searching for the Science of Self* Praise for the UK edition: Adam Rutherford's book is well-written, stimulating, and entertaining. What's more important, he consistently gets it right. Richard Dawkins *Genetics* is opening up the past as never before Adam Rutherford puts the genes in genealogy brilliantly. Matt Ridley *Magisterial*, informative, and delightful. Peter Frankopan *A revelatory and important exploration into the ties that bind us all seven billion of us together. I really was enthralled.* Sunjeev Sahota, author of *The Year of the Runaways* Fifteen years ago, the first sequence and analysis of the human genome was published. A monumental surge in genetics followed. Science writer and broadcaster Adam Rutherford rides that tide and traces its effects, first focusing on how genetics has enriched, and in some cases upset, our understanding of human evolution, then examining the revelations of recent findings, such as deep flaws in the concept of race. . . . Rutherford unpeels the science with elegance. Nature Science books can sometimes be rather stuffy or prissy but no one can accuse Adam Rutherford of this. In his exploration of the stories in our genes that word stories is foremost and Rutherford proves himself time and again to be an accomplished storyteller. . . . I love the many meanders that Rutherford takes along the way, whether it's the horrendously inbred family tree of the Hapsburgs resulting in the sad case of Charles II, or the unique genetic laboratory provided by the small and relatively isolated population of Iceland. Rutherford is at his best when exploring an apparently trivial but genuinely interesting topic like variations in earwax type. This is dependent on a single gene and his exploration of its distribution across the world is delightful. . . . A magnificent achievement, a big, friendly bear of a book that pummels the reader with delightful stories and no doubt would buy you a drink if it could. Brian Clegg, *PopScienceBooks* Rutherford's follow-up to his highly regarded first book *Creation* is an effervescent work, brimming with tales and confounding ideas carried in the epic poem in our cells. The myriad storylines will leave you swooning. . . . Rutherford, a trained geneticist, is an enthusiastic guide. He is especially illuminating on the nebulous concept of race, how it both does and doesn't exist. . . . Rutherford has proved himself a commendable historian one who is determined to illuminate the commonality of *Homo sapiens*. Colin Grant, *Guardian*