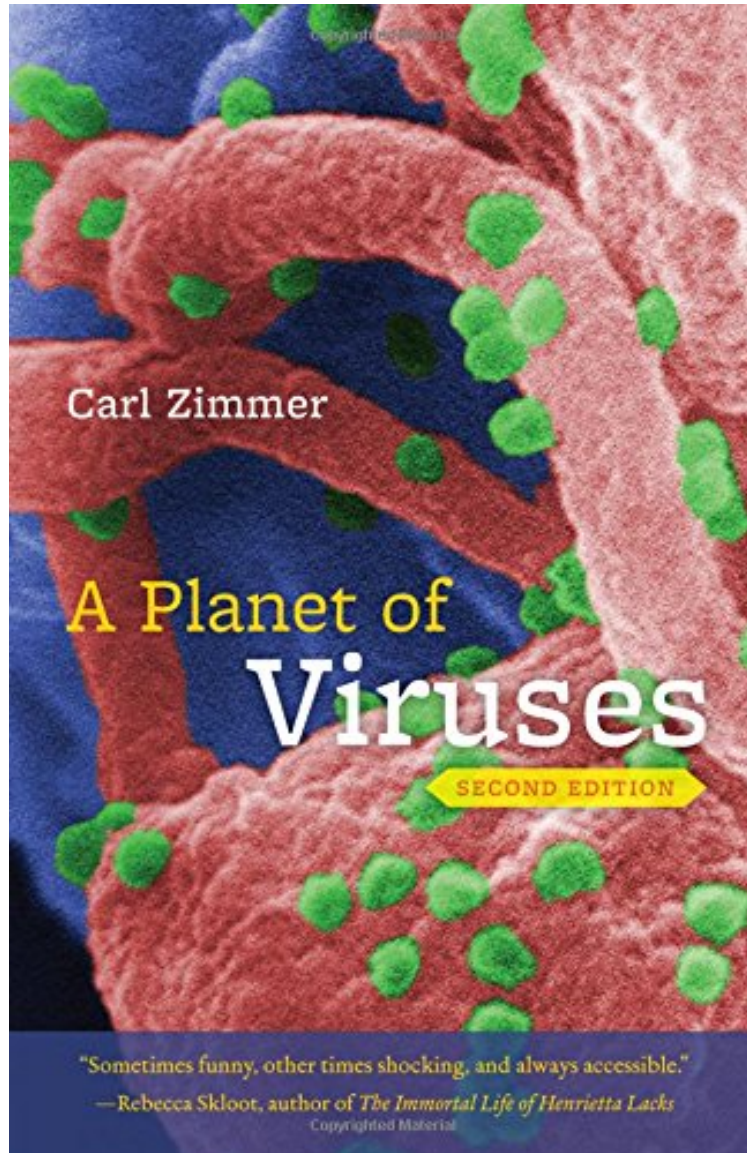


(Free) A Planet of Viruses: Second Edition

A Planet of Viruses: Second Edition

Carl Zimmer

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#56994 in Books Zimmer Carl 2015-10-06Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.50 x .70 x 5.50l, .0 #File Name: 022629420X128 pagesA Planet of Viruses Second Edition | File size: 45.Mb

Carl Zimmer : A Planet of Viruses: Second Edition before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Planet of Viruses: Second Edition:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The virus matrixBy Serge H AhmedNice primer on the world of viruses where we learn that the word virus 'originally signified either a life-giving substance or a deadly venom'. Perhaps reflecting etymology, it is no longer entirely clear whether viruses are alive or dead. However, they contain very few genes and are unable to reproduce without infecting other organisms. Apart from the recently discovered

mimivirus and mamavirus, viruses are generally about one hundred times smaller than bacteria which in turn are about one hundred times smaller than a typical mammal cell. Nobody really know when and how the first virus originated but what is clear is that viruses are ubiquitous. Both outside and inside us! There are hundreds of trillions of them in the oceans, in the earth crust, and in the atmosphere. In the oceans, there are about one million of virus-derived genes, including some that encode proteins involved in photosynthesis. It is estimated that about 10% of the oxygen in the air is produced with proteins that have a viral origin. 'We humans are an inextricable blend of mammal and virus'. About 8% of the human genome is derived from ancient retroviruses! For comparison, our estimated 20000 genes represent less than 2% of our genome!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great Introduction to Virology and Human Viruses! By Michelle Bach This book served as a wonderful introduction to Virology and Human Viruses (including Ebola, retroviruses, influenza, rhinovirus, human papillomavirus, and more). The language of the book is easy to comprehend even for people with very limited background in molecular biology, microbiology, immunology, or virology. Rather than delving deeper into the natural history of each virus, the book highlights information that is applicable to the reader's life in the status quo (e.g. how public health responds to viral outbreaks, resources that are available to the public such as the CDC MMWR (mortality and morbidity weekly report)). The book also utilizes a colloquial language that possesses a narrative effect; therefore, I enjoyed reading the book, and I wasn't drowned by technical jargon. I would highly recommend this book to anyone interested in learning about the impacts viruses have on our lives. I would recommend this book to people who are interested in learning more about the history and the anthropological impacts of each virus. For people with extensive background in human viruses, this book may be repetitive; however, the book contains a wealth of facts regarding the sociological aspects of the virus including the researchers associated with significant viral discoveries. A key target audience could be high school students or college undergraduates who are interested in infectious disease!

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Awesome book! By aruba Nice overview on several viruses. Plenty of facts on each to wet your appetite. Go buy other books if you want explicit details.

The past year has been one of viral panicpanic about viruses, that is. Through headlines, public health warnings, and at least one homemade hazmat suit, we were reminded of the powerful force of viruses. They are the smallest living things known to science, yet they can hold the entire planet in their sway. A Planet of Viruses is Carl Zimmer's eye-opening look at the hidden world of viruses. Zimmer, the popular science writer and author of National Geographic's award-winning blog The Loom, has updated this edition to include the stories of new outbreaks, such as Ebola, MERS, and chikungunya virus; new scientific discoveries, such as a hundred-million-year-old virus that infected the common ancestor of armadillos, elephants, and humans; and new findings that show why climate change may lead to even deadlier outbreaks. Zimmer's lucid explanations and fascinating stories demonstrate how deeply humans and viruses are intertwined. Viruses helped give rise to the first life-forms, are responsible for many of our most devastating diseases, and will continue to control our fate for centuries. Thoroughly readable, and as reassuring as it is frightening, A Planet of Viruses is a fascinating tour of a formidable hidden world.

"A brief, highly accessible introduction to viruses and their impact on the world. . . . Highly recommended."