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Life in the Universe

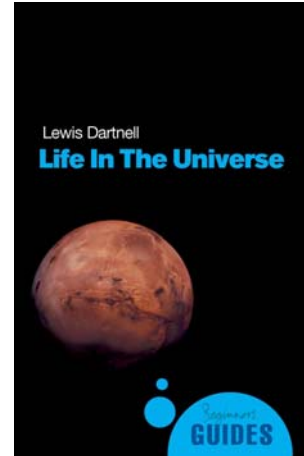
A Beginner's Guide

Lewis Dartnell

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Astrobiology, the study of life and its existence in the universe, is now one of the hottest areas of both popular science and serious academic research, fusing together biology, chemistry, astrophysics, and geology. In this masterful introduction, Lewis Dartnell tours its latest findings, and explores some of the most fascinating questions in science. What actually is 'life'? Could it emerge on other planets or moons? Could alien cells be based on silicon rather than carbon, or need ammonia instead of water? Introducing some of the most extreme lifeforms on Earth - those thriving in boiling acid or huddled around deep-sea volcanoes - Dartnell takes us on a tour of our solar system and beyond, and reveals how deeply linked we are to our cosmic environment, and what we might hope to find out there.



"An essential, enjoyable and highly readable insight into life in its cosmic context."

Gerda Horneck – author of *Looking for Life, Searching the Solar System* and former Head of the Radiation Biology Section, at the German Aerospace Centre DLR in Cologne, Germany

"Well written and easy to read; it will become a bedside book for any inquiring mind."

Andre Brack – president of the International Society for the Study of the Origin of Life and chairman of the Exobiology Science Team at the European Space Agency

"An excellent book, comprehensive, authoritative, and well written."

David Morrison – astrobiologist and recent winner of the Carl Sagan Medal of the American Astronomical Society for contributions to the public understanding of science.

Lewis Dartnell is currently researching at CoMPLEX (the Centre for Mathematics & Physics in the Life Sciences and Experimental Biology), at University College London. He has won three national science writing prizes, including second place in the prestigious Daily Telegraph / BASF Young Science Writer Award.

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