



Life: A Natural History of the First Four Billion Years of Life on Earth

By Richard Fortey

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

Life: A Natural History of the First Four Billion Years of Life on Earth By Richard Fortey

A New York Times Book Review Editors' Choice

"Extraordinary. . . . Anyone with the slightest interest in biology should read this book."--*The New York Times Book Review*

"A marvelous museum of the past four billion years on earth--capacious, jammed with treasures, full of learning and wide-eyed wonder."--*The Boston Globe*

From its origins on the still-forming planet to the recent emergence of Homo sapiens--one of the world's leading paleontologists offers an absorbing account of how and why life on earth developed as it did. Interlacing the tale of his own adventures in the field with vivid descriptions of creatures who emerged and disappeared in the long march of geologic time, Richard Fortey sheds light upon a fascinating array of evolutionary wonders, mysteries, and debates. Brimming with wit, literary style, and the joy of discovery, this is an indispensable book that will delight the general reader and the scientist alike.

"A drama bolder and more sweeping than *Gone with the Wind* . . . a pleasure to read."--*Science*

"A beautifully written and structured work . . . packed with lucid expositions of science."--*Natural History*

 [Download Life: A Natural History of the First Four Billion ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Life: A Natural History of the First Four Billio ...pdf](#)

Life: A Natural History of the First Four Billion Years of Life on Earth

By Richard Fortey

Life: A Natural History of the First Four Billion Years of Life on Earth By Richard Fortey

A New York Times Book Review Editors' Choice

"Extraordinary. . . . Anyone with the slightest interest in biology should read this book."--*The New York Times Book Review*

"A marvelous museum of the past four billion years on earth--capacious, jammed with treasures, full of learning and wide-eyed wonder."--*The Boston Globe*

From its origins on the still-forming planet to the recent emergence of *Homo sapiens*--one of the world's leading paleontologists offers an absorbing account of how and why life on earth developed as it did. Interlacing the tale of his own adventures in the field with vivid descriptions of creatures who emerged and disappeared in the long march of geologic time, Richard Fortey sheds light upon a fascinating array of evolutionary wonders, mysteries, and debates. Brimming with wit, literary style, and the joy of discovery, this is an indispensable book that will delight the general reader and the scientist alike.

"A drama bolder and more sweeping than *Gone with the Wind* . . . a pleasure to read."--*Science*

"A beautifully written and structured work . . . packed with lucid expositions of science."--*Natural History*

Life: A Natural History of the First Four Billion Years of Life on Earth By Richard Fortey

Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #121541 in Books
- Brand: Vintage
- Published on: 1999-09-07
- Released on: 1999-09-07
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.00" h x .83" w x 5.20" l, .79 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 400 pages

 [Download Life: A Natural History of the First Four Billion ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Life: A Natural History of the First Four Billio ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online *Life: A Natural History of the First Four Billion Years of Life on Earth* By Richard Fortey

Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

"The excitement of discovery cannot be bought, or faked, or learned from books," London Natural History Museum senior paleontologist Richard Fortey writes in *Life*. The first chapter, an engrossing account of an Arctic fossil-hunting expedition he undertook as a university student, will bring shivers to anyone who has ever ignored cold hands, hunger, and filthy socks to keep looking for something new, some piece of rock or bit of plant that may hold the key to the gleaming certainty of understanding. Fortey's descriptions of scruffy field assistants and eccentrically brilliant scientists are easily as interesting as the billions of years of evolution he so imaginatively describes. After all, the fossil record has not been accepted without controversy, and the arguments among fallible evolutionary biologists as they refined their theories make for great reading. But it is the little animals that make up our distant ancestry that are the focus here. The often mysterious fossils they left behind are like a history book in a language we don't know--the history of bugs and birds, humans and cauliflowers. One by one, Fortey reveals how the puzzles of paleontology have been subjected to the scientific method and to the politics and personal ambitions of academia, until a beautifully clear path is traced from the very first traces of life all the way across the eons to the advent of *Homo sapiens*. Fortey's elegantly written tour lets us share his passion for ancient seas and the animals that frolicked in them, and understand how time and chance contributed to the biography of us all. --*Therese Littleton*

From Library Journal

The diversity of Earth's evolutionary history are preserved in its stones. Fortney enlivens this broad paleontological survey with anecdotes from his own fossil-hunting expeditions.

Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From Scientific American

"The narrative of life requires a scale of thousands to millions of years, acting over a drama of more than 3,000 million years." It is a grand narrative, told grandly by Fortey, a senior paleontologist at the Natural History Museum in London. Drawing on a great breadth of knowledge, he flavors the narrative with illuminating and often surprising analogies and quotations from the likes of Pope, Swift and Yeats. His story takes life from the first single-celled organisms to prehistoric humans--over "the vast tract of time after the Sun blazed into heat ... and before humans started making pots, building ceremonial centres, and recording the details of their daily transactions on pottery slabs."

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Mark Gallegos:

This *Life: A Natural History of the First Four Billion Years of Life on Earth* book is not ordinary book, you have it then the world is in your hands. The benefit you will get by reading this book is usually information inside this reserve incredible fresh, you will get data which is getting deeper an individual read a lot of information you will get. This specific *Life: A Natural History of the First Four Billion Years of Life on Earth* without we know teach the one who looking at it become critical in pondering and analyzing. Don't end up being worry *Life: A Natural History of the First Four Billion Years of Life on Earth* can bring

whenever you are and not make your case space or bookshelves' turn into full because you can have it in the lovely laptop even mobile phone. This Life: A Natural History of the First Four Billion Years of Life on Earth having fine arrangement in word as well as layout, so you will not truly feel uninterested in reading.

Mitchell Peed:

Do you one among people who can't read gratifying if the sentence chained in the straightway, hold on guys that aren't like that. This Life: A Natural History of the First Four Billion Years of Life on Earth book is readable simply by you who hate the straight word style. You will find the information here are arrange for enjoyable reading through experience without leaving also decrease the knowledge that want to supply to you. The writer involving Life: A Natural History of the First Four Billion Years of Life on Earth content conveys objective easily to understand by a lot of people. The printed and e-book are not different in the content material but it just different by means of it. So , do you even now thinking Life: A Natural History of the First Four Billion Years of Life on Earth is not loveable to be your top checklist reading book?

Maria Levine:

Are you kind of occupied person, only have 10 or even 15 minute in your day time to upgrading your mind proficiency or thinking skill possibly analytical thinking? Then you are receiving problem with the book compared to can satisfy your small amount of time to read it because this all time you only find reserve that need more time to be go through. Life: A Natural History of the First Four Billion Years of Life on Earth can be your answer mainly because it can be read by anyone who have those short time problems.

Ronda Powers:

What is your hobby? Have you heard which question when you got students? We believe that that question was given by teacher to the students. Many kinds of hobby, All people has different hobby. And you also know that little person similar to reading or as reading become their hobby. You need to understand that reading is very important and also book as to be the matter. Book is important thing to provide you knowledge, except your teacher or lecturer. You see good news or update regarding something by book. Many kinds of books that can you choose to use be your object. One of them are these claims Life: A Natural History of the First Four Billion Years of Life on Earth.

**Download and Read Online Life: A Natural History of the First Four Billion Years of Life on Earth By Richard Fortey
#6O3RQYF8GS5**

Read Life: A Natural History of the First Four Billion Years of Life on Earth By Richard Fortey for online ebook

Life: A Natural History of the First Four Billion Years of Life on Earth By Richard Fortey Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Life: A Natural History of the First Four Billion Years of Life on Earth By Richard Fortey books to read online.

Online Life: A Natural History of the First Four Billion Years of Life on Earth By Richard Fortey ebook PDF download

Life: A Natural History of the First Four Billion Years of Life on Earth By Richard Fortey Doc

Life: A Natural History of the First Four Billion Years of Life on Earth By Richard Fortey MobiPocket

Life: A Natural History of the First Four Billion Years of Life on Earth By Richard Fortey EPub

6O3RQYF8GS5: Life: A Natural History of the First Four Billion Years of Life on Earth By Richard Fortey