



The Cell: A Visual Tour of the Building Block of Life

By Jack Challoner

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The Cell: A Visual Tour of the Building Block of Life By Jack Challoner

The cell is the basic building block of life. In its 3.5 billion years on the planet, it has proven to be a powerhouse, spreading life first throughout the seas, then across land, developing the rich and complex diversity of life that populates the planet today.

With *The Cell: A Visual Tour of the Building Block of Life*, Jack Challoner treats readers to a visually stunning tour of these remarkable molecular machines. Most of the living things we're familiar with—the plants in our gardens, the animals we eat—are composed of billions or trillions of cells. Most multicellular organisms consist of many different types of cells, each highly specialized to play a particular role—from building bones or producing the pigment in flower petals to fighting disease or sensing environmental cues. But the great majority of living things on our planet exist as single cell. These cellular singletons are every bit as successful and diverse as multicellular organisms, and our very existence relies on them.

The book is an authoritative yet accessible account of what goes on inside every living cell—from building proteins and producing energy to making identical copies of themselves—and the importance of these chemical reactions both on the familiar everyday scale and on the global scale. Along the way, Challoner sheds light on many of the most intriguing questions guiding current scientific research: What special properties make stem cells so promising in the treatment of injury and disease? How and when did single-celled organisms first come together to form multicellular ones? And how might scientists soon be prepared to build on the basic principles of cell biology to build similar living cells from scratch.

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The Cell: A Visual Tour of the Building Block of Life By Jack Challoner Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #461772 in Books
- Published on: 2015-10-16
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.50" h x .80" w x 8.25" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 192 pages

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Editorial Review

Review

“High school biology didn’t do much to make cells seem like fascinating, psychedelic visual art. The plant and animal cell diagrams splashed across textbook pages are a world away from what the billions of cells dividing, dying, or busily making proteins actually look like. *The Cell* more than makes up for that shortfall. . . . Amazing micrographs show the tiny building blocks of life in rich, strange detail. . . . If the images didn’t come with scientific explanation, it would be easy to confuse them with radical abstract art.”

(*Wired* 2015-12-01)

“*The Cell* offers scores of beautifully intimate views of the complex organic universes of cells. Their sheer physical diversity is striking. Adipose tissue bound in collagen gives the impression of seaweed caught in an old net. Bundles of collagen fibrils mimic bamboo forests. Cells undergoing mitosis looks like jellyfish breaking apart. . . . The pictures would wow a child, but the book covers an astonishing amount of ground and would be an intriguing addition to any introductory biology class.”

(*Publishers Weekly* 2016-01-15)

“In his beautiful visual exploration of the cell, Challoner uses an exuberance of imaging techniques as well as infographics and data figures to illustrate this fundamental unit of life. Handsome and elegantly designed, this tour through the cell’s history and diversity in form and function is a delight to peruse. Each page is its own lovely rabbit hole, parsed to allow for quick snippets of “cyte-seeing” or hours-long, leisurely pleasure reading. This stunning collection would make a winning addition to the library of any lover of life and science.”

(*American Scientist* 2016-01-15)

“Small really is beautiful: Psychedelic images show the inner workings of cells in stunning detail. . . . The book, although enjoyable to look at, aims to show readers just how amazing and beautiful science can be.”

(*Daily Mail* 2015-12-02)

“[Challoner’s] book about cells featuring micrographed images of the biological blueprints for each and every living thing in the universe could be considered more than an informational and visual tome—it could easily be a photographic work of art.”

(*Tech Times* 2015-12-02)

About the Author

Jack Challoner is the author of more than thirty books on science and technology. He also works as an independent science consultant for print, radio and TV.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Lisa Morgan:

Now a day those who Living in the era exactly where everything reachable by talk with the internet and the resources included can be true or not need people to be aware of each facts they get. How a lot more to be smart in receiving any information nowadays? Of course the correct answer is reading a book. Studying a book can help folks out of this uncertainty Information specifically this The Cell: A Visual Tour of the Building Block of Life book since this book offers you rich info and knowledge. Of course the data in this book hundred pct guarantees there is no doubt in it you probably know this.

Michelle Chase:

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Maria Green:

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