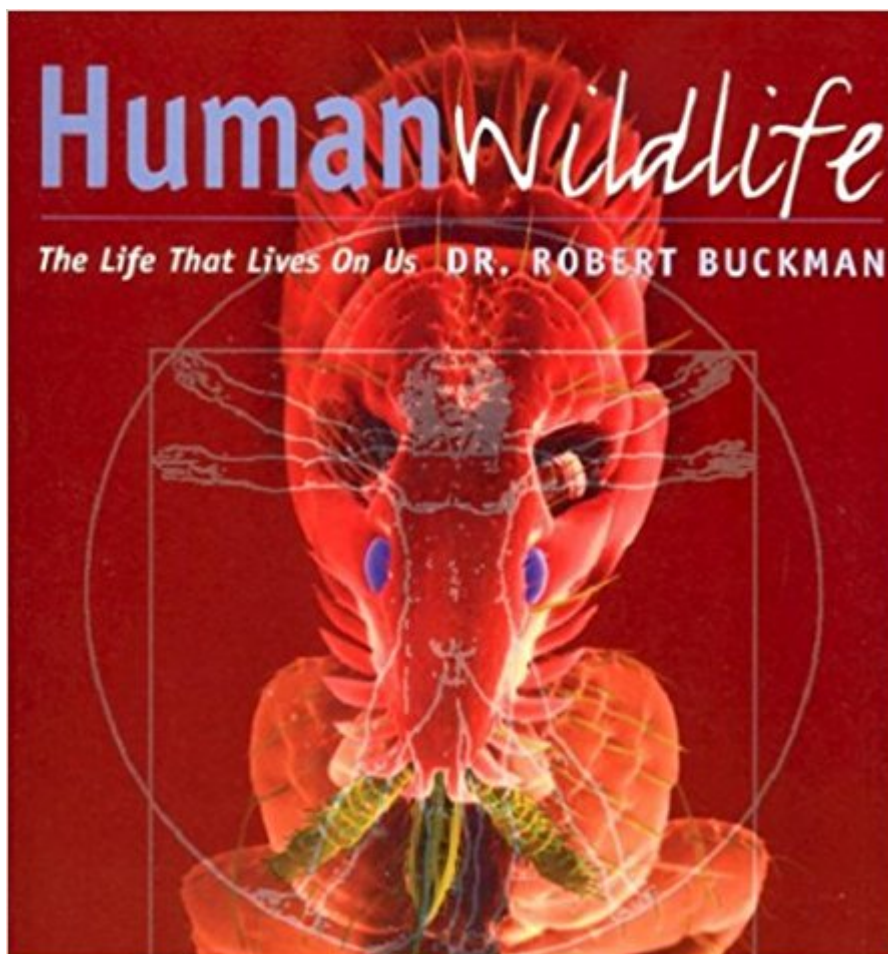


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Human Wildlife: The Life That Lives On Us



Synopsis

Your body has 100 trillion cells, but only 10 trillion are human. The rest belong to the bacteria, fungi, viruses, and parasites that live on or in us. Some of these tenants are actually beneficial, aiding in the digestion process, for example. The majority of them neither help nor hurt us, but simply coexist with us. A few species, however, from the cholera bacilli to tapeworms and lice, can be dangerous, and sometimes deadly. In *Human Wildlife*, Dr. Robert Buckman takes readers on a safari through the human body, pointing out the long-term residents, the itinerant visitors, the irritating vandals, and the ruthless invaders, carefully distinguishing between helpful friends, harmless acquaintances, and lethal foes. By turns funny, amazing, and alarming, *Human Wildlife* is an endlessly fascinating journey through our own private biospheres. Along the way, we learn that one-third of the human race is allergic to dust mite feces; that bad breath is caused by bacteria living on the back of our tongues which release sulfur from the protein we eat; that live maggots are being successfully used to treat drug-resistant infections; that fresh sweat is odorless (the smell results from the activity of armpit bacteria); and that the average kitchen cutting board has more bacteria than the top of a toilet seat. Accompanied by stunning, full-color and high-magnification images of these myriad organisms, Dr. Buckman's informative and engrossing text is leavened with a delightful sense of humor.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In *Human Wildlife*, Dr. Robert Buckman takes us on an engrossingly detailed journey through the hoards of organisms that thrive within, on, and uncomfortably close to our bodies. The voyage includes a mix of humorous text and astonishing photographs. From bedbugs to bacteria, the doctor reminds us that even when we think we are by ourselves, we are never alone. (Jeffrey C. May, author of *My House is Killing Me!*) [A]n authoritative and inherently fascinating study of the bacteria, fungi, viruses, and parasites that live within and upon human beings... Full-color photographs (many of the magnified pictures of microscope viewings) add a stunningly effective touch to this accessible informational resource for biology students and non-specialist general readers alike. (Wisconsin Bookwatch) Kids (and curious adults) will love this bestiary of ugly little creatures... Written with humor and a light touch. (Christy Karras Salt Lake Tribune) This is a book that just about everyone will find in some measure fascinating, disturbing, engaging, repulsive and funny... buy it for a friend who worries about 'germs.' (American Scientist)

Dr. Robert Buckman is a medical oncologist at Sunnybrook Regional Cancer Center in Toronto and a professor of medicine at the University of Toronto. He is the author of numerous books, including *How to Break Bad News* and *What You Really Need to Know about Cancer*, both available from Johns Hopkins.

An interesting approach to a sensitive subject. The author managed to inject a bit of humor into his delivery. I found it informative.

As a parasitology professor, one of my goals is to desensitize students to REALLY disgusting images. (When I was growing up, I wanted to be a radio shock jock, but that never panned out, so I'm doing the next best thing.) What better way to introduce them to DELIGHTFULLY DISGUSTING images than to show the dermatological (and other) manifestations of the organisms that inhabit the human body. YOWZA!

This is the second review I have written for this book. The first somehow disappeared so now I will try again. My child was doing a presentation at his school and needed resources. I found this at a library. He could not put it down. I skimmed through it and was very impressed. So I bought it. The photographs are fantastic, the wording is very educational and quite hilarious, and there was so much information that, had there not been a 3 book minimum on the bibliography, this would have been the only one he needed. I cannot recommend it enough for any budding scientist.

This book is informative and humorously written. The author has wonderful pictures of these common creatures that we never see. It can be a little scary and gruesome to think of all the wildlife living in us, but Mr Buckman does a great job of spotlighting the creatures that call us home.

I had a lot of fun reading this book! It is a great educational book, mostly for kids 12-16 ?, but I found a couple of things I was not aware of! Excellent read, funny too. I recommend it strongly to anyone. I do not leave things on the bottom of my sink any more :)

I was a little - but - I was forewarned by another reader so I expected it. Pretty good and interesting read - grandkids loved it - go figure.

This book bugs me! But I love it.

Wonderful read! Humor stuck in the middle of weird creatures you sort of want to know about. The photomicrographs are very detailed, but the regular photos are poor and out of focus. Quick and fun to read

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