

First Contact: Scientific Breakthroughs in the Hunt for Life Beyond Earth

Marc Kaufman



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First Contact: Scientific Breakthroughs in the Hunt for Life Beyond Earth Marc Kaufman Now in paperback, Marc Kaufman's riveting, game-changing book tells the incredible true story of science's search for the beginnings of life on Earth—and the likelihood of it existing elsewhere in our universe.

For decades, researchers assumed that the genesis of life was too delicate a process, and the conditions needed to support it too fragile, for it to exist anywhere other than Earth. But recent discoveries—from microbes and creatures living in unimaginably inhospitable environments to newly discovered extra-solar planets—point towards a day when the existence of extraterrestrial life will be irrefutably confirmed.

Science reporter Marc Kaufman takes readers around the globe, into space, and miles below Earth's surface to show how the search for life on other planets is changing the way humans think about their own history, about what it means to be human, and about what, exactly, life is.

First Contact is the first book to bring together recent developments across many competing branches of science, from microbiology to geochemistry, physics, and astronomy, all racing to verify what was once deemed impossible. Kaufman demystifies the key points behind the rigorous science and advanced technology that is edging ever closer to the most important discovery of modern times.

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