

# CONTENTS

Foreword	vii
Note to the Reader	xi
Acknowledgments	xiii
Introduction: How Tiny Creatures Make a Huge Impact	xv
<b>PART ONE: INTIMATE FRIENDS</b>	
1 The Tree of Life	3
2 It's a Microbial World	9
3 The Human Microbiome	17
4 Departments of Bodily Defense	29
5 It's All Connected: The Health of Humans, Animals, and Our Planet	35
<b>PART TWO: MORTAL ENEMIES</b>	
6 What Has Plagued Us?	41
7 Killer Viruses	59
8 The Buzz on Mosquito-Borne Infections	75
9 Microbes in Flight: Birds and Bats	93
10 Don't Breathe This Air	113
11 Microbes in the Woods	123
12 What's in the Beef?	137
13 Gut Reactions	147

<b>14</b> When Beauty Isn't Skin Deep	167
<b>15</b> The Perils of Antibiotic Misuse	177
<b>PART THREE: GERMS IN THE FUTURE</b>	
<b>16</b> The Straight Poop on Fecal Transplants	195
<b>17</b> Healing with Friendly Bacteria and Fungi	203
<b>18</b> Healing with Friendly Viruses	211
<b>19</b> The Future of Vaccines	217
<b>20</b> Microbes and the Sixth Extinction	233
<b>21</b> Science, Ignorance, and Mystery	247
Appendix: Landmark Discoveries and Notable Germs	255
Notes	261
Further Reading	279
Index	283