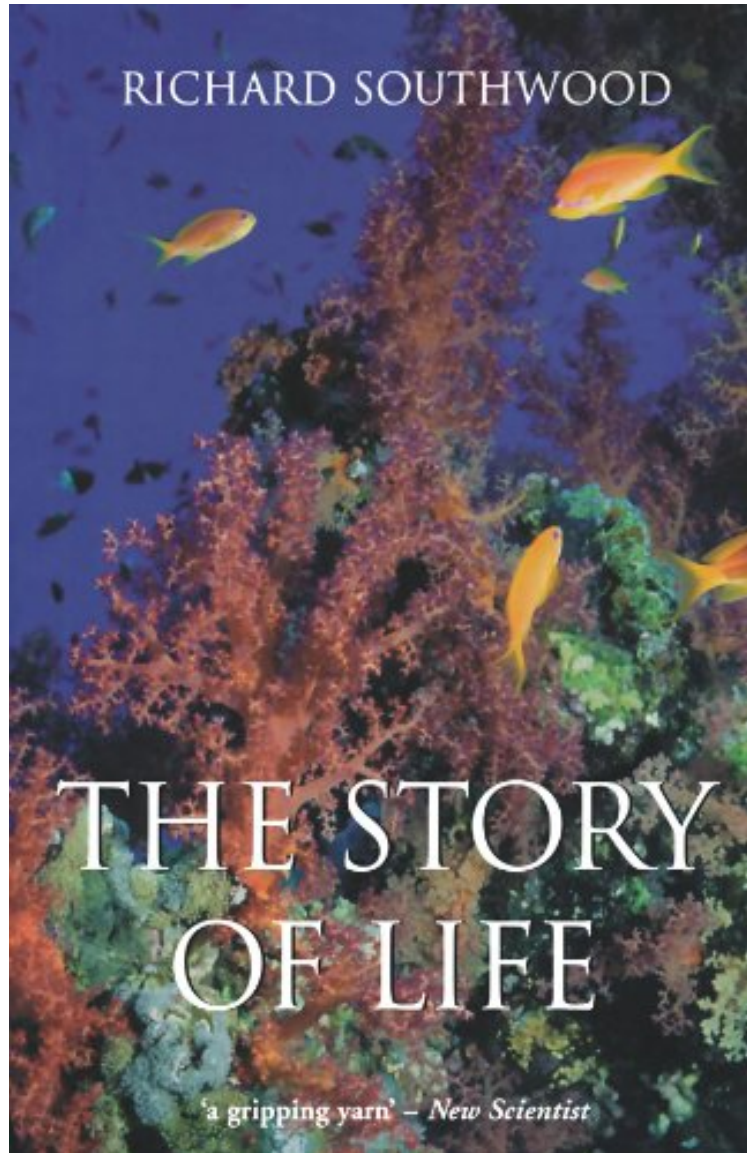


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The Story of Life

Richard Southwood

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Richard Southwood : The Story of Life before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Story of Life:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very Readable Work For General AudiencesBy TeroThe three reviews are quite accurate. I did not read the whole book, only chapters here and there. But all chapters are readable with the minimal high school biology background. There is enough detail for the science fan as well, species are named, examples are well chosen. Illustrated to keep your attention. Each chapter starts with a map of the land masses

of that period on a globe picture. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Mackenzie Perfect Condition 0 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Two Stars By David Dunndoes this look like a good book? not a please read. enjoy the class

In this attractively illustrated volume, eminent biologist Sir Richard Southwood offers a remarkable survey of life in all its forms, ranging from the earliest single-celled bacteria, to the evolution and extinction of animals such as the dinosaurs, to the variety of life today. The book follows the major geological periods--such as the Cambrian, Ordovician, Silurian, and Devonian--explaining how great planetary changes such as the movement of the continents, the rising and falling of sea level, and the periods of glaciation, affected the forms of life on Earth. Beginning with the earliest and simplest forms of life, Southwood discusses such amazing creatures as bacteria that live around geysers and thermal vents and can survive in boiling water. He explains how the development of skeletons triggered the Cambrian Explosion, when animals such as trilobites, sea scorpions, shellfish, cephalopods first spread around the earth. He also examines such landmarks of evolution as the appearance of eggs in shells and of insects in flight. We read about the great dinosaurs and the arrival of the mammals and the primates, and the great extinctions, including the Permian (the largest in fossil history, wiping out 95% of animals) and the Cretaceous/Tertiary (K/T) extinction (the one that wiped out the dinosaurs). Southwood concludes by examining the impact of humanity on Earth, considering if we ourselves might not unleash the next major extinction. Southwood's love for his subject, for the life he describes so vividly, shines through this carefully crafted story. Generously illustrated with line drawings showing the fauna and flora of the Earth, both past and present, *The Story of Life* will enthrall anyone interested in nature and natural history.

"Extremely few living scientists would be able to cover the entire history of life authoritatively, with wisely chosen examples and principles, presented in lucid prose, and all in fewer than 260 well-illustrated pages. Southwood is one of them, has done so, and I accordingly recommend this book." About the Author Sir Richard Southwood FRS is former head of Imperial College and Oxford's Zoology Departments as well as ex-Vice-Chancellor of Oxford University. He is co-author of *Ecological Methods*, which is widely considered the ecologist's bible.