

The background of the book cover is an abstract, textured composition of green and blue tones, resembling a microscopic view of biological structures or a nebula. The colors are layered and blended, with some areas appearing more vibrant and others more muted. The overall effect is organic and scientific.

A

SCIENCE AND THE SEARCH
FOR THE ORIGIN OF LIFE

BRIEF

HISTORY

OF

BILL MESLER
H. JAMES CLEAVES II

CREATION

It's arguably the greatest scientific question of all and certainly the one that goes to the heart of existence: how did life begin? This very readable and engaging history charts how that question has been tackled over the centuries, from inchoate early stabs in the dark to the latest experiments and theories drawing upon new technology and evidence collected in space. (I hadn't really considered that going to the moon and Mars would prove so fruitful in clarifying the question of life on Earth, for example.) You don't need to be a science buff to enjoy this tale. It's filled with petty rivalries, stubborn refusal to acknowledge facts, u-turns in theory, dead ends, eureka moments and more. Indeed, from microscopes to Hadron colliders, our understanding of the origins of life have gone hand in hand with technological breakthroughs. But some things remain: again and again, pioneers who watch their ideas become superseded can't bear to admit they've been lapped and cling to tired ideas. Others of course remain stubborn despite being laughed at but are redeemed when their theories gain primacy...only to see those built upon or passed by as well. From DNA to spontaneous generation (an idea we were taught to deride as schoolchildren but which has returned in more sophisticated form) this is popular history of the first order. --

Michael Giltz