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The Tangled Tree: A Radical New History of Life

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Summary:

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Nonpareil science writer David Quammen explains how recent discoveries in molecular biology can change our understanding of evolution and life's history, with powerful implications for human health and even our own human nature.

In the mid-1970s, scientists began using DNA sequences to reexamine the history of all life. Perhaps the most startling discovery to come out of this new fieldâ€"the study of life's diversity and relatedness at the molecular levelâ€"is horizontal gene transfer (HGT), or the movement of genes across species lines. It turns out that HGT has been widespread and important. For instance, we now know that roughly eight percent of the human genome arrived not through traditional inheritance from directly ancestral forms, but sideways by viral infectionâ€"a type of HGT.

In The Tangled Tree David Quammen, "one of that rare breed of science journalists who blends exploration with a talent for synthesis and storytelling― (Nature), chronicles these discoveries through the lives of the researchers who made themâ€"such as Carl Woese, the most important little-known biologist of the twentieth century; Lynn Margulis, the notorious maverick whose wild ideas about "mosaic― creatures proved to be true; and Tsutomu Wantanabe, who discovered that the scourge of antibiotic-resistant bacteria is a direct result of horizontal gene transfer, bringing the deep study of genome histories to bear on a global crisis in public health.

"Quammen is no ordinary writer. He is simply astonishing, one of that rare class of writer gifted with verve, ingenuity, humor, guts, and great heart― (Elle). Now, in The Tangled Tree, he explains how molecular studies of evolution have brought startling recognitions about the tangled tree of lifeâ€"including where we humans fit upon it. Thanks to new technologies such as CRISPR, we now have the ability to alter even our genetic compositionâ€"through sideways insertions, as nature has long been doing. The Tangled Tree is a brilliant guide to our transformed understanding of evolution, of life's history, and of our own human nature.

The Tangled Tree: A Radical New History of Life: David ... David Quammen's fifteen books include The Tangled Tree, The Song of the Dodo, The Reluctant Mr. Darwin, and Spillover, a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle award.He has written for Harper's, The Atlantic, Rolling Stone, The New York Times Book Review, Outside, and Powder, among other magazines, and is a contributing writer for National Geographic. The Tangled Tree: A Radical New History of Life, David ... The Tangled Tree: A Radical New History of Life - Kindle edition by David Quammen. Download it once and read it on your Kindle device, PC, phones or tablets. Use features like bookmarks, note taking and highlighting while reading The Tangled Tree: A Radical New History of Life. Understanding Horizontal Gene Transfer In 'The Tangled Tree' NPR's Scott Simon asks science writer David Quammen about horizontal gene transfer and how it changes how we think about humankind's place in the world. Quammen's new book is The Tangled Tree.

The Tangled Tree | Book by David Quammen | Official ... David Quammen's fifteen books include The Tangled Tree, The Song of the Dodo, The Reluctant Mr. Darwin, and Spillover, a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle award. Rethinking the †Tangled Tree' of Life - The New York Times Mr. Quammen's new book, "The Tangled Tree,― tells the story of how we came to learn that Darwin's branches of evolution are not so separate from each other as we once thought. The Tangled Tree: A Radical New History of Life by David ... In The Tangled Tree, David Quammen offers the definitive chronicle of this profound development in our understanding of the history of life." Carl Zimmer David Quammen's diligently researched and deeply considered overview of what's been going on recently in evolutionary biology is illuminating, wondrous, and gripping.

Tangled Tree, Sep 11 2018 | Video | C-SPAN.org David Quammen reports on recent discoveries in molecular biology and how they affect our understanding of evolution. \hat{a} € The Tangled Tree \hat{a} € Review: From Tiny Seeds - WSJ Genes can be passed not only \hat{a} € vertically, \hat{a} € The Tangled Tree \hat{a} € The Tangled Tree \hat{a} € Review: From Tiny Seeds - WSJ Genes can be passed not only \hat{a} € vertically, \hat{a} € The Tangled Tree \hat

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