

Download **Deadly Companions How Microbes Shaped Our History**

In *Deadly Companions: How Microbes Shaped Our History*, Dr. Dorothy Crawford tells the tale of how microbes have impacted human society throughout the ages. She begins with a basic description of the life cycle of bacteria and viruses and then proceeds to discuss the methods of transmission to the early hunter-gatherer societies. Ever since we started huddling together in communities, the story of human history has been inextricably entwined with the story of microbes. They have evolved and spread amongst us, shaping our culture through infection, disease, and pandemic. At the same time, our changing human culture has itself influenced the evolutionary path of microbes. Combining tales of devastating epidemics with accessible science and fascinating history, *Deadly Companions* reveals how closely microbes have evolved with us over the millennia, shaping human civilization through infection, disease, and deadly pandemic. Beginning with a dramatic account of the SARS ...Microbes first appeared on planet Earth around 4 billion years ago and have coexisted with us ever since we evolved from our ape-like ancestors. By colonizing our bodies these tiny creatures profoundly influenced our evolution, and by causing epidemics that killed significant numbers of our predecessors they helped to shape our history.