**The Story of Earth**

THE STORY OF EARTH: The First 4.5 Billion Years, from Stardust to Living Planet by Robert M. Hazen takes readers on an astonishing journey across space and time in his radical new approach to Earth’s biography.

Combining astrobiology with the natural world as we know it, THE STORY OF EARTH advances two controversial claims: that life evolved from rocks, and that most of the planet’s minerals derive from life. (By extension, finding these minerals elsewhere in the universe would signal extraterrestrial life). Second, organic molecules reacting with mineral crystals may have generated life.

Hazen folds these revelations into a narrative full of dazzling landscapes, pioneering scientists, and scales of time that blow the mind. Through his eye-witness accounts of key twentieth-century moments, we meet nomadic meteorite-hawkers in the Sahara, gun-toting feds guarding NASA’s lunar dust, and the WWII naval officer whose “bomb” first simulated the molten rock of Earth’s mantle. Now a scientist at the leading edge of his field, Hazen shows how those advances have paved the way for a new century of explorers: through initiatives like the Deep Carbon Observatory, young scientists’ dispatches from Earth’s harshest landscapes are fusing geology, chemistry, and biology to revolutionize our understanding of Earth and its place in the cosmos.

THE STORY OF EARTH is a grand tour of our planet inside and out, by a writer whose work has been hailed by The New York Times for its “wonderful clarity. . . that effortlessly teaches as it zips along.” Timely and of enduring relevance, this is popular science of the highest order.

Robert M. Hazen is a Senior Scientist at the Carnegie Institution’s Geophysical Laboratory, the executive director of the Deep Carbon Observatory, and the Clarence Robinson Professor of Earth Science at George Mason University. Hazen’s recent research, funded by NASA, focuses on the roles of minerals in the origin of life and the coevolution of the geo- and biospheres. The winner of numerous awards in his field, he is the author of more than 350 articles and many books on science, history and music, including the bestselling Science Matters: Achieving Scientific Literacy, co-written with James Trefil. He lives with his wife in Glen Echo, Maryland.