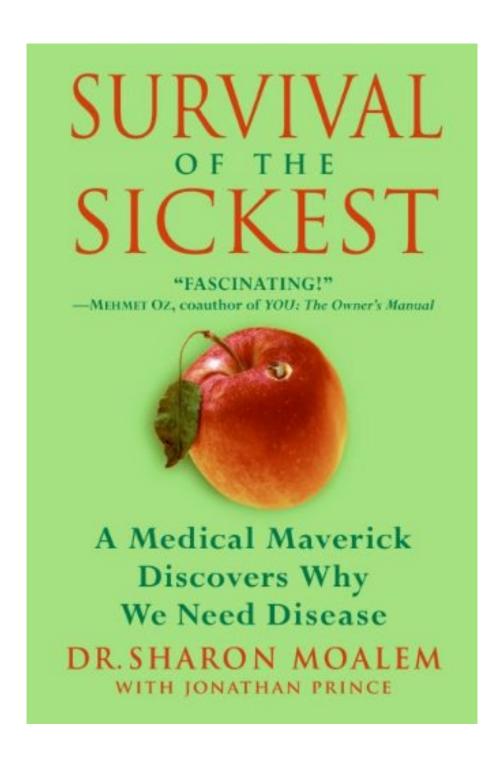


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Read it.

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Was diabetes evolution's response to the last Ice Age? Did a deadly genetic disease help our ancestors survive the bubonic plagues of Europe? Will a visit to the tanning salon help lower your cholesterol? Why do we age? Why are some people immune to HIV? Can your genes be turned on -- or off?

Joining the ranks of modern myth busters, Dr. Sharon Moalem turns our current understanding of illness on its head and challenges us to fundamentally change the way we think about our bodies, our health, and our relationship to just about every other living thing on earth, from plants and animals to insects and bacteria.

Through a fresh and engaging examination of our evolutionary history, Dr. Moalem reveals how many of the conditions that are diseases today actually gave our ancestors a leg up in the survival sweepstakes. When the option is a long life with a disease or a short one without it, evolution opts for disease almost every time.

Everything from the climate our ancestors lived in to the crops they planted and ate to their beverage of choice can be seen in our genetic inheritance. But Survival of the Sickest doesn't stop there. It goes on to demonstrate just how little modern medicine really understands about human health, and offers a new way of thinking that can help all of us live longer, healthier lives.

Survival of the Sickest is filled with fascinating insights and cutting-edge research, presented in a way that is both accessible and utterly absorbing. This is a book about the interconnectedness of all life on earth -- and, especially, what that means for us.

Sales Rank: #308060 in Books
Published on: 2007-02-06
Released on: 2007-02-06
Format: Deckle Edge
Original language: English

• Number of items: 1

• Dimensions: 9.00" h x .97" w x 6.00" l, 1.10 pounds

• Binding: Hardcover

• 288 pages

### **Features**

• Subject: Research

• Subject: Human evolution

• Subject: Survival

• Subject: Life Sciences - Evolution - Human

• Subject: General Medical

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Amazing story of Evolution, Biology and why we are here told in a way anyone can understand

By Amazon Customer

This book is probably one of the most significant books I have ever read. Sharon makes it for even Layman to understand the complex world of evolution and our role in the grand scheme of things. Many obscure things make sense after reading this great work. Thank you so much for writing something so great!

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

Fascinating Here; a Bit of a Stretch There

By Seachranaiche

That some diseases express themselves as survival traits, or could be precursors to a genome's ability to ward off disease, is a fascinating topic. Some disease origins, such as sickle-cell anemia, seem very obvious in the context of their emergence; others...well, maybe. Dr. Moalem engages in some speculation, but even though this book is written for the general, non-scientific reader--in language that is a little bit too cutesy sometimes--he is still careful to add qualifiers and provisos. He makes no claims, he just presents causality observations of various disease origins, extrapolating from research going on in the field.

The chapters on genetic diseases become a bit serpentine. Wandering genes and epigenetic factors contribute to a chaos of influences that seem to reinforce punctuated equilibrium or validate Lamarckian genetics, in which the acquired traits of a parent could be passed on to offspring. A genome under stress would somehow know to re-write itself by randomly throwing out proteins to switch genes on or off. If a beneficial gene is modified, then that change is incorporated as a survival trait--in other words, random mutation. These observations demonstrate that a variety of factors contribute to natural selection, all of which are probably valid.

This is a book designed for the general reader, and as such is informative and entertaining. Dr. Moalem also includes a healthy section of notes for readers who want to pursue this topic further.

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Barin storm

By Lefou

I love how my brain go through this journey while going through this book. how the author is like a tourist

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