



## Five Billion Years of Solitude: The Search for Life Among the Stars

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By Billings, Lee.

Current. 1 Cloth(s), 2013. hard. Book Condition: New. Since its formation nearly five billion years ago, our planet had seemed to us to be the sole living world in a vast and silent universe. Yet over the past two decades astronomers have discovered thousands of other worlds including some that could be similar to our own and the pace of discovery is accelerating. In his fascinating account of this unfolding revolution, science journalist Lee Billings meets with top experts in the search for life beyond earth, and reveals how the search for these "exoplanets" is both a cutting-edge scientific challenge and a reflection of mankind's oldest hopes, dreams, and fears. "The best book I have read about exoplanets, and one of the few whose language approaches the grandeur of a quest that is practically as old as our genes." NYTBR "Exoplanet detection is space science's hottest field, one which science writer Billings surveys here with exceptional clarity while peering over the shoulders of the planet hunters' leading pioneers. Along with an absorbing history of celestial-body sightings from the Greeks to Galileo, Billings profiles colorful contemporary researchers, such as astrophysicist Greg Laughlin, who assesses planets' values based on their available resources (Earth's weigh in at \$5...



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