

Contents

Prologue 1

1 A Bit of History: Microbes and Humans 6

2 Hunting Hyperthermophiles and Their Viruses: From the Great Depths to the Laboratory 51

3 How Do You Live in Hell? 90

4 The Universal Tree of Life:

Where to Place Microbes from Hell and Their Viruses? 131

5 The Universal Tree of Life:

Are Microbes from Hell Our Ancestors? 181

Epilogue 228

Acknowledgments 231

Notes 233

References 247

Index 267