

"[Osmundson] writes with elegance and insight about the intersection of the real and the metaphorical. . . . This is very much a book of our times."

—LITERARY HUB

Invisible in the food we eat, the people we kiss, and inside our own bodies, viruses flourish, with the power to shape not only our health, but our social, political, and economic systems. Drawing on his expertise in microbiology, Joseph Osmundson brings readers under the microscope to understand the structure and mechanics of viruses and to examine how viruses like HIV and COVID-19 have redefined daily life. Osmundson's buoyant prose builds upon the work of the activists and thinkers at the forefront of the HIV/AIDS crisis and critical scholars like José Esteban Muñoz to navigate the intricacies of risk-reduction, draw parallels between queer theory and hard science, and define what it really means to "go viral." This dazzling multidisciplinary collection offers novel insights on illness, sex, and collective responsibility. *Virology* is a critical warning, a necessary reflection, and a love letter about how we can best care for those we cherish.

"A compelling examination of the tension between avoidance and exposure, safety and risk, preservation of the self and openness to evolution and change. This book is a potent medicine for our times."

—LACY M. JOHNSON, author of *The Reckonings*

"*Virology* made me gay for viruses. Seriously, *Virology* is a tour de force that uses queer theory to teach us about the science of viruses. . . . [Osmundson] reminds us that our relationship with science and scientific phenomena is always social."

—CHANDA PRESCOD-WEINSTEIN, author of *The Disordered Cosmos*

"*Virology* is devastating in its soulful brilliance. Rigor just became cool as fuck and pleasurable again."

—KIESE LAYMON, author of *Heavy*



JOSEPH OSMUNDSON is a professor of microbiology at NYU. His work has been published in leading biological journals including *Cell* and *PNAS* and in *The Village Voice*, *The New York Review of Books*, *The Feminist Wire*, and elsewhere. He lives and works in New York City.

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