



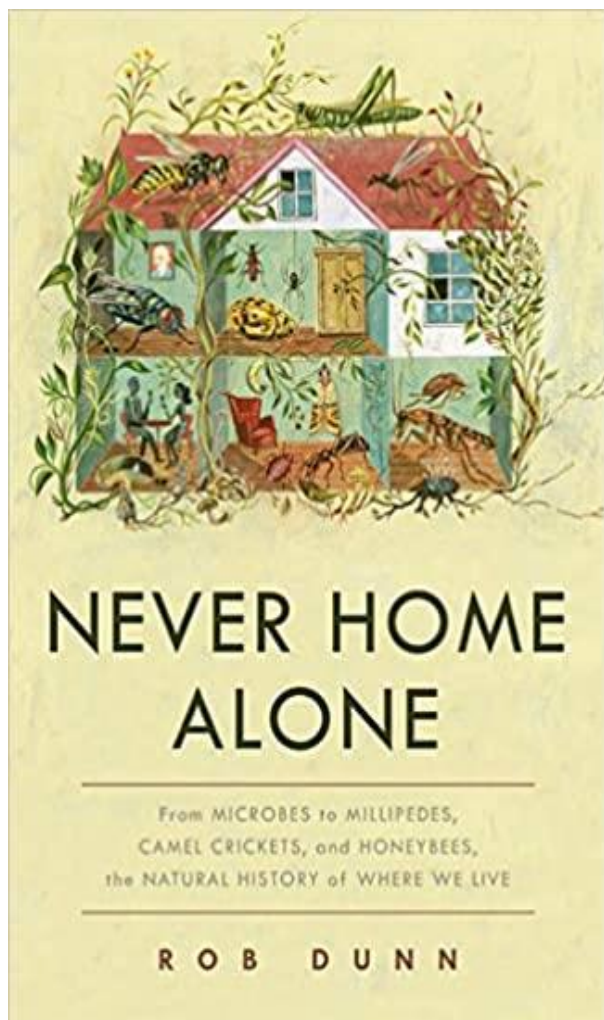
Suntrap Book Review

Never Home Alone: From Microbes to Millipedes, Camel Crickets and Honeybees, the Natural History of Where We Live

Written by Rob Dunn

Published by Hatchett p/b £7.99

Age range: Adult



Description

It's the dream scenario for many of us: having the house completely to ourselves. But we're not actually alone at all. Rob Dunn and his team decided to take a closer look. Upon investigating American homes, they discovered that there are nearly 200,000 species living in the homes.

In *Never Home Alone*, biologist Rob Dunn takes us to the edge of biology's latest frontier: our own homes, thousands of species of insects, bacteria, fungi, and plants live literally under our noses. As we have become increasingly obsessed with cleaning and sterilizing our homes and separating our living spaces from nature, we have unwittingly cultivated an entirely new playground for evolution. Unfortunately, this means that we have created a range of new parasites to threaten ourselves with. At the same time, many of the more helpful organisms--such as microbes that can protect us are caught in the crosshairs. If we're not careful, the "healthier" we try to make our homes, the more likely we'll be putting our own health at risk.

A rich natural history and a thrilling scientific investigation, Rob Dunn's *Never Home Alone* shows us that if we are to truly thrive in our homes, we must learn to welcome the unknown guests that have been there the whole time.

Reviews

"*Never Home Alone* is a thumping good book that raises alarm and offers reassurance in roughly equal measure. And it is funny... What makes [it] so compelling is a sense of wonder and delight that encompasses all sorts of creatures and all sorts of science."--**Los Angeles Review of Books**

"A good book about niche science, which deserves to be widely read."--**Sunday Times**

"Easy to read and accessible... Recommended."--**CHOICE**

"Over a number of years, Rob Dunn, a U.S. biologist and ecologist and his team, surveyed the species to be found in 1,000 houses from around the world. The results, revealed in this remarkable, jaw-dropping, occasionally unappetising book, are astonishing."--**Daily Mail**

"Chatty, informative... it's hard not to be occasionally charmed by [Dunn's] prose, as when he catalogs the arthropods with whom we share our homes... And it's hard not to share, at least a little, his awe at their diversity, even in a single household."--**New York Times Book Review**