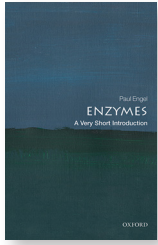


Enzymes: a very short introduction by Paul Engel



This book comes from a series of ‘very short introductions’ aimed at introducing the reader to a new subject. To describe this book as a journey from simple concepts to complex biochemistry would be accurate; however, lay readers may be surprised to find themselves in high-speed pursuit and it is perhaps more appropriate for those with a scientific background. The book starts off in chapter 1 with lay descriptions of enzymes and why they are useful, raising questions such as ‘What is life?’ Chapter 2 then picks up the pace with descriptions of kinetics and the concepts associated with catalysis; however, this is restricted

to an explanation of the basics of the Michaelis–Menten equation. Those seeking a more detailed exploration of enzyme kinetics would be better to target a book specific to enzyme kinetics. Subsequent chapters investigate examples of enzymes, their use in medicine and industrial applications. There is perhaps a slight bias to genetic examples; however, this is perhaps a reflection of the biological basis of the book as opposed to a chemical one. This book would be an excellent accompaniment to an undergraduate biology student or someone with a scientific background who wishes to know more about enzymology. For general scientific readers this book offers a level of detail to satisfy most questions around enzymes whilst also giving relatable examples to everyday life.

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