## CONTENTS

Preface ............... xi
Acknowledgements .............. xiii

**PART I PAINTING BIG PICTURES**

1 A TREE WITH MILLIONS OF TWIGS .............. 3
2 A GALAXY WITH BILLIONS OF STARS .............. 22
3 THE LIKELIHOOD OF OTHER TREES .............. 38

**PART II LIFE HERE, IMPLICATIONS FOR ELSEWHERE**

4 A THIN SLIVER OF EXISTENCE .............. 55
5 ENERGY AND LIFE .............. 70
6 HABITATS AND LIFE .............. 84
7 SKELETONS AND LIFE .............. 101
8 INTELLIGENCE AND LIFE .............. 118

**PART III PLANETARY SYSTEMS AND LIFE**

9 TYPES OF PLANETARY SYSTEM .............. 137
10 HABITABLE ZONES .............. 150
x

Contents

11 OTHER HABITABILITY FACTORS 168

12 HOW MANY INHABITED PLANETS? 186

PART IV DISCOVERING LIFE 203

13 ON THE REPEATABILITY OF EVOLUTION 205

14 CANDIDATE PLANETS 222

15 ATMOSPHERIC SIGNATURES 236

16 RADIO AND LIFE 255

17 SIXTY YEARS OF SETI 268

PART V BEYOND THE MILKY WAY 283

18 THE PHYSICAL UNIVERSE 285

19 THE BIOLOGICAL UNIVERSE 300

20 THE INTELLIGENT UNIVERSE 318

Bibliography 335

Index 339