Molecular Biology of the Cell 3E by James D. Watson

A big, beautiful (now in color throughout), up-to-date survey of cell biology for the introductory university course. The text is divided into four sections: introduction to the cell; molecular genetics; internal organization of the cell; and cells in their social context. Previous editions were pu

Personal Review: Molecular Biology of the Cell 3E by James D. Watson
I am a biochemistry/biology grad student and I can tell you one thing: this is the single best cell biology book ever written. I used this book in multiple courses throughout my career, not only while in college, but also now I am a cell biology grad student. Since I started in college I have been using this book for looking up anything I came across regarding cell biology.

Not only that, but I also recommended this book to my family when they told me they were interested in understanding what I was dedicating my life to. It was so easy to read, my father (who is an accountant) told me he
would have loved a pocket version so he could finish reading it. Truly, MBOC is the bible for med/bio science majors. I've seen myself return to this book so many times during my career that I can't count them.

The book is so great in many many ways. Figures are abundant, clear and concise (and you can even have them in CD, in Internet, Powerpoint, whatever!). Text is so precise and direct that you never have to go back and forth, back and forth reading previous chapters to understand new-ones. And bibliographic references. References are the most important thing in this book... they are so good, so carefully picked, they are really what makes this book a must-read even years after college.

A friend of mine who majored in informatics and is now working in the bioinformatics field asked me to tell him what book should he buy, cause he was having serious trouble understanding the bio part of his work. I recommended Albert's text-book. And I nailed it. Truly, the book is both entry-level and expert-appeasing at the same time.

However, this is a review for the 5th edition of this book, which I bought after my 4th edition book's covers tore apart. 5th edition is greater in every sense. They've updated everything, every chapter, and every reference. Even more, you have now more chapters, new figures, some chapters have been re-written to make them more understandable.

Bruce Alberts is one of the greatest american cell biologists of our time. He and his collegues have compiled the best up-to-date biology text-book you can find. I seriously recommend buying this book if:
- you are a bio/med major
- you are going to work with something related to biology (like bioinformatics, biophysics, biomechanics, etc.)
- you are interested in understading how nature works at the most simple organized level (aka the Cell)