



Wild Sex: The Science Behind Mating in the Animal Kingdom

Carin Bondar

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Birds do it, bees do it — every member of the animal kingdom does it, from fruit flies to blue whales. But if you think humans have a tough time dating, try having to do it while being hunted down by predators, against a backdrop of unpredictable and life-threatening conditions. The animal kingdom is a wild place – and it's got mating habits to match. The sex lives of our animal cousins are fiendishly difficult, infinitely varied, often incredibly violent — and absolutely fascinating.

In *Wild Sex*, Dr. Carin Bondar takes readers on an enthralling tour of the animal kingdom as she explores the diverse world of sex in the wild. She looks at the evolution of sexual organs (and how they've shaped social hierarchies), tactics of seduction, and the mechanics of sex. She investigates a wide range of topics, from whether animals experience pleasure from sex to what happens when females hold the reproductive power. Along the way, she encounters razor-sharp penises, murderous carnal cannibals, and spontaneous chemical warfare in an epic battle between the sexes.

The resulting book is titillating, exhilarating, amusing, petrifying, alluring — and absolutely guaranteed to make you think about sex in a whole new way.

Wild Sex: The Science Behind Mating in the Animal Kingdom Details

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Author : Carin Bondar

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From Reader Review Wild Sex: The Science Behind Mating in the Animal Kingdom for online ebook

Erica says

4.5 Stars. Well written and superbly fascinating.

Douglas says

At times hilarious and outrageous. From the spiders that give heavily wrapped goodies to their amours to prolong their distraction, to the apparent lack of equipment in snails and slugs, this is just fascinating.

As I pointed out while reading, just be glad we're at the top of the chain here. There seems to be little affection and love in many of the (dare I say it?) "lower" animals.

I do have issues with the authors gyrations to explain every wacky behavior through evolution. Face it, not everything makes sense, and trying to justify contradictory species shouldn't drag Darwin into it.

Lara says

Fun and interesting, with enough of a sidelong sense of humor to bypass the "blush" and "EW" reflexes. Dr. Bondar indulges a bit more in the Latin names and technical terms than someone like Mary Roach, enough so that there's a glossary in the back.

Unrelated to the text, I laughed out loud when I saw that my library had carefully added a strip of label tape clarifying that the all-caps spine title of WILD SEX referred to "mating in the animal kingdom". Just in case some patron finds this book while browsing and believes that they've discovered a heretofore unknown bonanza of erotica in the animal biology section...

Hasib says

Wild Sex serves as a primer on the biological and cellular mechanisms of reproduction and its evolutionary extrapolations. While there are descriptions of allele distribution and sexual selection, they are brief and deficient. I found it surprising that other reviewers' scrutinized the book for being too "boring" and academic. On the contrary, I found the author's writing to be lacking in the expository style befitting a scientific book of this nature. There were many lines apropos of pop-science, sensationalist internet articles rather than academic prose. However, interlaced with these were the fascinating facts that readers would expect in a book about the science of sex. Overall, I was disappointed the author did not describe in more detail genetic variation in relation to reproductive strategies, allele frequency in variant populations, and the impact of selective pressures on fitness parameters within a given environment. This may be a good introductory title for those unfamiliar with reproductive biology, but I found it too elementary to placate my evolutionary inquiries.

Ian says

This book was very informative, and Bondar didn't shy away from anything. Honestly; it was refreshing to read a book like this, one that is filled with knowledge about the science behind reproduction in the animal kingdom. Whether the animal is a Fur seal, Homo Sapiens, or a house fly, Bondar has a never-ending supply of gruesome (and sometimes hilarious) tactics, dark humor, and a large array of species. I would recommend this to anyone who is curious about this subject, whether shy about it or not.

Agnieszka Kalus says

?wiat przyrody jest fascynuj?cy, a autorka ciekawie o nim pisze, si?gaj?c po setki przyk?adów.

Marsha says

I learned so much from this book – unexpected things, even. For instance, the question of virginity is actually meaningful for some species, unlike people!

The title, *_Wild Sex_*, does not refer to unbridled, anything goes, sex. It's sex of wild animals in the wild. Some animals do amazing things to "get their rocks off". But seriously, it is clear that the purpose of the whole thing is to spread the genes and DNA of the individual! The violence and jealousy and rivalry all have the same source. I think that I have come out with a more general understanding of the motivations of other types of animals. And I can definitely see the source of a lot of human activities and hangups. And I can see where a lot of religious hangups come from, although I doubt that every religious person will see it that way! Worthwhile investment of time :-)

Mark Garn says

After reading Dr. Bondar's book I have a whole new view of "Life" on our planet. Every thing about sex I will ever want to know, and maybe a few things I wish I didn't, are in this book. I think anyone who wants to write si-fi, could get a lot of good ideas about alien physiology. I mean, why go to other planets when the aliens are here! Dr. Bondar, there is always room at my fantasy dinner table for you.

Karolina Sosnowska says

<https://tanayahczyta.wordpress.com/20...>

Gerard Villegas says

I've always been fascinated by animal biology and life sciences particular concerning wildlife information. From the National Geographic magazine to nature shows, animals are truly a fascinating breed of species. In Carin Bondar's book *Wild Sex*, she examines the mating habits and rituals of the animal kingdom and how the breeding process is almost very similar to that of human beings.

Did you know that size does matter to the tropical freshwater swordtail fish? Male swordtails with longer tails do not attract the same response from the female tribe who would rather select the ones with shorter tails due to the fact that the longer tails attract predators who easily can spot them in a group. Pretty much, the females would rather have their eggs fertilized by shorter males than to be eaten by their enemies.

What about the preening peacock with the bigger, lush tail feathers? The males with the nicer rack attract the females easier than the ones who try to overcompensate. Basically, the author points out that the animal kingdom is like one big pick-up bar where anything goes.

Whether it is practicing homosexual behavior (yes some animals do have gay sex), transvestitism (changing their genders), intersex reproduction (yes, they have both winkies), engaging in violent courtship and sexual behavior (don't mention rape) or interspecies lovemaking (you can't get that out of your head), this certainly is an interesting book that covers a wide array of animal behavior and practices. For those that enjoy the life sciences and biology, do pick this one up!

It is an enjoyable nonfiction romp.

Lizzy says

A thorough and comprehensive description of how reproduction happens in the animal kingdom. Often gruesome and fascinating. The writing is accessible with many new and bizarre science words! Her main point is that reproduction is the root behind many animal behaviors.

Mark Avery says

This book is a review about how animals beget other animals. It must be quite difficult to write about sex in a way that is neither coy nor coarse and which will keep the attention of the reader with whatever moral and personal baggage they might bring to the subject.

The author tells us of her IUD (which I found slightly too much information) and skips through the pages of this book with an open, 'there's nothing to be embarrassed about here' tone which works pretty well. The trouble was, I didn't find the subject terribly interesting. There were interesting passages of intercourse of

course, but half way through the book, facing chapters on sexually transmitted infections and dirty old men my interest was beginning to fade out rapidly.

This is a good review and explanation of the ins and outs of mating in the animal kingdom but it didn't really grab my attention in a way that I thought it might.

This review first appeared on Mark Avery's blog on 2 December 2016
<http://markavery.info/2016/12/02/book...>

Teresa says

Couldn't finish this. I was so excited to read it, but a lot of it was vague, jumped all over the place. I got to 50% before quitting. the author clearly knows her stuff, but this failed to deliver on its promises, and massively felt like a first draft.

Kayla says

I guess if I were to give a true rating it would be around 3.5, but I like to round up. The title and back description of the book drew me in and I thought it would straddle the line between entertaining and informational. It was much more academic than I expected it to be, but then not overly so. There were some chapters and a number of pages that I would completely lose interest in and others that were highly entertaining and contained interesting information that I completely had no prior knowledge of. I don't regret reading this and I feel satisfied with the amount of knowledge I got from this book. It was one of those that ended up being worth it for the gems of information.

Carolyn says

I wanted to love this. I love biology and all the reproductive quirks that come along with the animal kingdom. The first portion was, unfortunately, repetitive, harping on example after example of the same concept and repeating the reasoning until I was thoroughly bored. The second portion was better but still harkened back to examples from the first portion as if readers were too dumb to remember them. Still, this middle portion was the most original, best constructed, and most memorable. The final section was uninspired and none of the separate chapters were repetitive, but by this point in the book, I was done with the entire book and skim read the final chapters. The author was hung up on showing her Latin skills (got annoying after about 20 pages) and didn't take enough time to reflect on the purpose of these evolutionary traits. I wish there was a fuller discussion on sexual selection and not just randomly strung together examples of weird animal sex stuff. I would recommend skim reading this or examining chapters on subjects you're interested in, but the whole book was too uninspired, academically dry, and monotonous for full-on reading.
