



# Why Is Sex Fun?: The Evolution of Human Sexuality (Science Masters)

By Jared Diamond

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**Why Is Sex Fun?: The Evolution of Human Sexuality (Science Masters)** By Jared Diamond

To us humans the sex lives of many animals seem weird. In fact, by comparison with all the other animals, we are the ones with the weird sex lives. How did that come to be? Just count our bizarre ways. We are the only social species to insist on carrying out sex privately. Stranger yet, we have sex at any time, even when the female can't be fertilized (for example, because she is already pregnant, post-menopausal, or between fertile cycles). A human female doesn't know her precise time of fertility and certainly doesn't advertise it to human males by the striking color changes, smells, and sounds used by other female mammals. Why do we differ so radically in these and other important aspects of our sexuality from our closest ancestor, the apes? Why does the human female, virtually alone among mammals go through menopause? Why does the human male stand out as one of the few mammals to stay (often or usually) with the female he impregnates, to help raise the children that he sired? Why is the human penis so unnecessarily large? There is no one better qualified than Jared Diamond—renowned expert in the fields of physiology and evolutionary biology and award-winning author—to explain the evolutionary forces that operated on our ancestors to make us sexually different. With wit and a wealth of fascinating examples, he explains how our sexuality has been as crucial as our large brains and upright posture in our rise to human status.

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### Editorial Review

#### Amazon.com Review

Many of us pursue fitness because we want to remain attractive to partners and potential partners, and we stay healthy so we can continue to have sex with those partners. But why do people care so much about sex? This book, written by an evolutionary biologist, explains how all the weird quirks of human sexuality came to be: sex with no intention of procreation, invisible fertility, sex acts pursued in private--all common to us, but very different from most other species. *Why Is Sex Fun?* asks us to look at ourselves in a brand-new way, and richly rewards us for doing so.

#### From Library Journal

This book speculates on the evolutionary forces that shaped the unique aspects of human sexuality: female menopause, males' role in society, having sex in private, and?most unusual of all?having sex for fun instead of for procreation. Through comparative evolution, biologist and science author Diamond (Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fate of Human Societies, LJ 2/15/97), poses credible and thought-provoking yet entertaining factors: the lengthy period of dependency of human infants, sex for pleasure as the tie that helps bind a mother and a father together, and menopause as an evolutionary advantage that, by ending the childbearing years, allows females to pass wisdom and knowledge on to society and succeeding generations.

Recommended for most libraries.?Gloria Maxwell, Kansas City P.L., Kan.

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#### Review

Diamond's case is that our sex lives are better understood in terms of genetics than of grand opera. He is among the best of a talented bunch of writers on evolutionary biology. This book is (like his earlier work on the same theme, *The Third Chimpanzee*) engaging and interesting to read. It is much more than yet another infantile attempt to use a string of unconnected anecdotes to explore the human spirit through the eyes of nature. *Why Is Sex Fun?* contains many strange and memorable tales of our sex lives and those of our relatives. It is guaranteed to keep a potential partner amused and amazed at the vagaries of what people--and animals--get up to when it comes to passing on their genes. -- *The New York Review of Books*, Steve Jones

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##### David Hedges:

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**Elizabeth Webster:**

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**Lesley Dwyer:**

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**Janna Lefevre:**

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