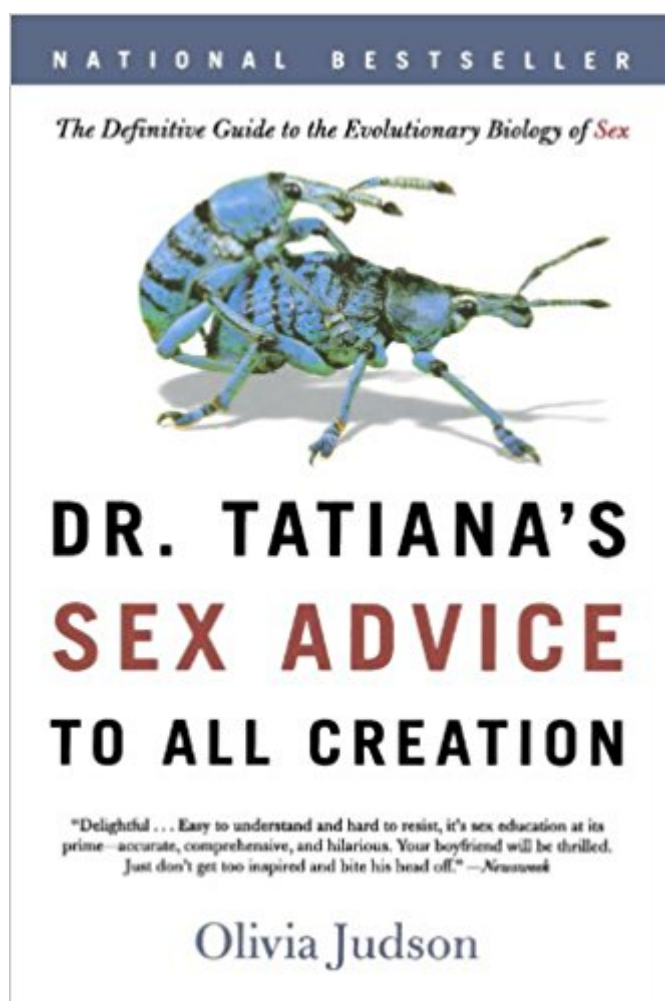


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Dr. Tatiana's Sex Advice To All Creation: The Definitive Guide To The Evolutionary Biology Of Sex



Synopsis

A sex guide for all living things and a hilarious natural history in the form of letters to and answers from the preeminent sexpert in all creation. Dr. Tatiana's Sex Advice to All Creation is a unique guidebook to sex. It reveals, for example, when necrophilia is acceptable and who should commit bestiality with whom. It discloses the best time to have a sex change, how to have a virgin birth, and when to eat your lover. It also advises on more mundane matters -- such as male pregnancy and the joys of a detachable penis. Entertaining, funny, and marvelously illuminating, the book comprises letters from all creatures worried about their bizarre sex lives to the wise Dr. Tatiana (a.k.a. Olivia Judson), the only sex columnist in creation with a prodigious knowledge of evolutionary biology. Fusing natural history with advice to the lovelorn, blending wit and rigor, she is able to reassure her anxious correspondents that although the acts they describe might sound appalling and unnatural, they are all perfectly normal -- so long as you are not a human. In the process, she explains the science behind it all, from Darwin's theory of sexual selection to why sexual reproduction exists at all. Applying human standards to the natural world, in the end she reveals the wonders of both. "Delightful . . . Easy to understand and hard to resist, it's sex education at its prime -- accurate, comprehensive, and hilarious." -- Newsweek

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Customer Reviews

Finally, a how-to guide, in the guise of a Q&A advice column, for marching, flying, or slithering into the battle of the sexes, whatever your species. In this entertaining and informative book, evolutionary biologist Olivia Judson presents "letters" from sexually frustrated animals, birds, and

insects who ask "Dr. Tatiana" to explain some sexual oddity. For example, "Don't Wanna Be Butch in Botswana" writes, "I'm a spotted hyena, a girl. The only trouble is, I've got a large phallus. I can't help feeling that this is unladylike. What's wrong with me?" Each question leads Dr. T. into a fascinating explanation about the sex life of this species, sprinkled with sprightly stories about other species with similar attributes or behavior. You'll learn why one stick-insect copulation lasts for 10 weeks (to prevent other males from gaining access to the fertile female) and why the black-winged damselfly's penis has bristles (to scrape out his rival's sperm). You'll learn that male and female orangutans masturbate with sex toys fashioned from leaves and twigs, that slugs are hermaphrodites with penises on their heads, and that females in more than 80 species eat their lovers before, during, or after sex. You'll also ponder human sexuality when you learn that "monogamy is one of the most deviant behaviors in biology" (although jackdaws, chinstrap penguins, California mice, and some termites swear by it) and "natural selection, it seems, often smiles on strumpets." Highly recommended--you'll read this through just for the fun of it and have plenty of odd facts with which to dazzle your dinner companions. --Joan Price --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

Those looking for prurient prose may be better off browsing their local adult bookstore, but readers intrigued by the bizarre facts surrounding animal whoopee (and really, who isn't?) should pay a visit to Dr. Tatiana, the alter ego of evolutionary biologist and journalist Judson. While her wryly salacious tone makes animal mating habits and evolutionary biology pretty racy, the book still reads more like a textbook than the Kama Sutra. Judson uses a tongue-in-cheek advice column format through much of the book, forging letters from dung flies, iguanas, sagebrush crickets and rodents ("Like, what's the deal? I'm a sleek young California mouse and am so in heat.") to explore reproductive biology. The device can be grating, and purists appalled by anthropomorphism may find themselves cringing as Judson chastises a male splendid fairy wren for philandering, while pronouncing his paddle crab counterpart a "gentleman." Still, Judson gets high marks for her copiously researched data. Perhaps most compelling is her chapter entitled "Aphrodisiacs, Love Potions, and Other Recipes From Cupid's Kitchen," in which the roots of animal homosexuality are examined. The reader will undoubtedly come away with reams of fascinating factoids, such as the nauseating dining habits of tropical cockroaches during copulation, and the pregnancies of the male seahorse and his cousin, the pipefish. Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

This book is hilarious AND educational. I actually changed what I was going to study to animal behavior because of this book. It is humorous, yet gives you great facts about different species. It's written like an advice column and the author is fantastic at keeping it as if the animals are talking, without over anthropomorphizing them. It's a good book for people who are simply into animals to people who actually study them. It's not lewd (I first read it in high school) and she does a fantastic job of bringing up things my husband gets excited to learn about and then explaining the science behind them in a way he can understand, so it's not just for those of us who study this stuff.

Fantastic read.

If you or someone you know likes animals, is nerdy, has a great sense of humor and has a love advice column, then you found the perfect book! I've gotten this book at least 5 times as presents to many friends. The author writes the book as if it is an advice column for all animals in the world, writing in to ask about sex, the behavior of the opposite sex, what is happening to their body, courtship advice and more. From talking to microscopic organisms to blue whales, 'Dr. Tatiana' gives biological background on her subjects with flair and wit and then dishes out the advice in the same style. I bought the book originally not really knowing what I was getting and then ended up laughing out loud on the train.

Dr. Tatiana writes an advice column for members of all species and organisms that wish to write to her. She specializes in answering their questions about sex and dispensing sound advice. For example, a yellow dung fly wants to know how to make its sperm more attractive; a fig wasp wonders why all the males she knows bite each other in half; an elephant is worried because its penis has turned green; a mother manatee frets because her son appears to prefer other males. It turns out that homosexuality is common in the animal world, that females are mostly promiscuous and that monogamy is exceedingly rare in nature, (she calls it one of the most deviant behaviors in biology) and that the battle of the sexes is real and can be brutal (and the females often win). This book is a breezy read. Tatiana is a witty raconteur with an apparently inexhaustible font of knowledge about the weird and wonderful world of sex. The point of existence, she maintains, is to survive and reproduce. Genetic mutations and behavioral modifications that confer an advantage in pursuing these goals will flourish. Species that do not adapt will die out. Though written in a jokey way, this is a serious book. It provides a wonderful picture of the sheer vast variation of the natural world and the dynamic pace of evolution. Perfect for the teen interested in science (and sex) and for all curious adults. For more about me and my book *The Nazi Hunter: A Novel*, (where the sex is

tastefully done) go to [...]

The enjoyment of this book is, delightfully, inversely proportional to your ignorance of the subject matter. Those readers, like this reviewer, who are new to the subject matter will find example after example and surprise after surprise from the beginning to the end of this book. It is fascinating reading, and will definitely give you a deep appreciation of the human place in the living world. Human sexual practices are definitely somewhat boring if compared to those that occur in insects, fish, worms, and many other species of animals and plants. The examples in this book are ample evidence of this. Since the power of this book is in the surprises it offers the reader, a review of it should not act as a spoiler by giving away any of the examples in the book. Therefore this reviewer will resist the temptation to discuss any of them. Suffice it to say that the author has written a brilliant book, one that should be perused by everyone. Many references are given at the end of the book for those who want to investigate the science behind the examples in more detail. The author also discusses, albeit briefly, the various theories behind the evolution of sex. The contents of the book are certainly ones that can be discussed in any social context, and this reviewer has found that such discussions are met with intense curiosity and intrigue by all of the participants in them.

Awesome text that points out the randomness of evolution and the constructedness of the ideas of sex and sexuality--through the exploration of different creatures' sexual reproduction and mating rituals.

I've had a hard time getting interested in this book. I understand, intellectually, the approach to the information being shared and the information being shared. I just don't care about it because of how it's framed.

Bought this for a grad school class (sexual selection) and it was by far the best book of the semester. It's funny, creative, and super educational. The part about the hyena was a real eye-opener. I definitely recommend it!

Since there have been so many extremely well written and elaborate reviews posted already, I'll keep mine short and sweet: this book is a riot. If you've every wondered just "how do they do it, and why do they do it the way they do it?", and I don't mean your neighbors, then this is a must read. Sure, there are oodles of subject-specific text books on the market, some of which require a

masters degree in English to understand, but every so often there comes along a true gem such as this little book. Combining in-depth knowledge with entertaining and original writing is an art, and Olivia Judson is a master in both fields. Enjoy!

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