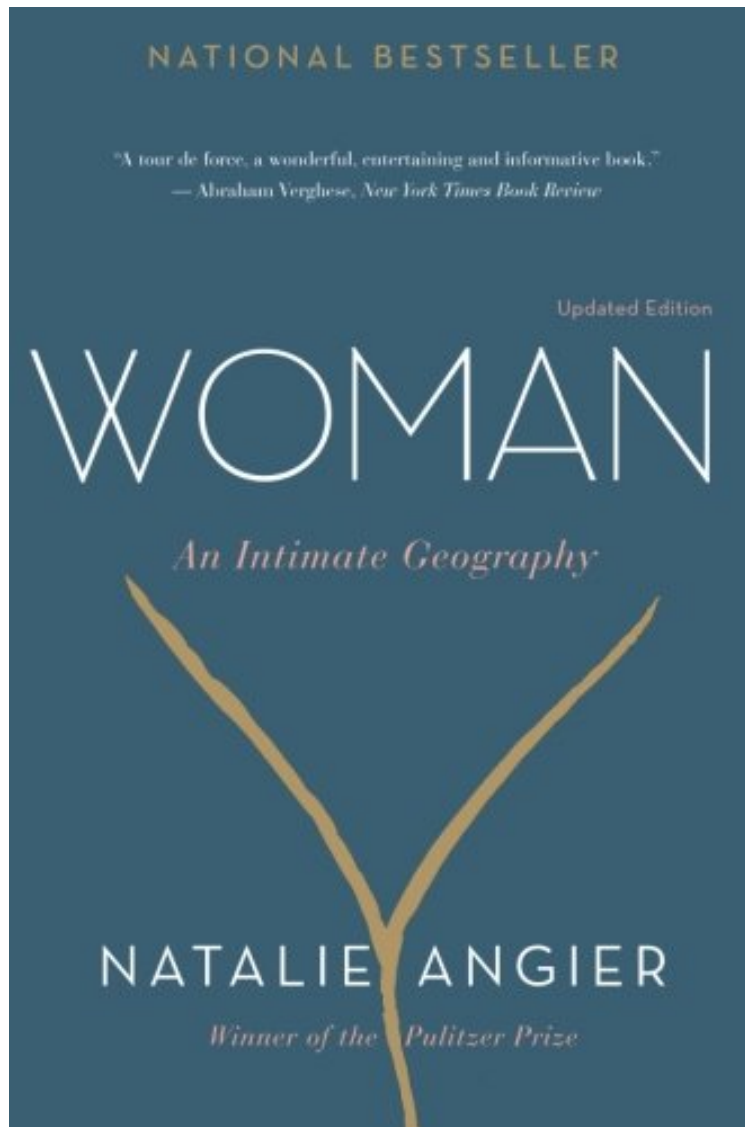


(Library ebook) Woman: An Intimate Geography

Woman: An Intimate Geography

Natalie Angier

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Natalie Angier : Woman: An Intimate Geography before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Woman: An Intimate Geography:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The Essential Woman,Today More Needed than EverBy LaraThis book is bound to become a classic. It is a scientific summary of the biology, physiology and psychology of the more important half of humanity: womankind. The implications of Angier's study for the social sciences and the humanities is evident as it presents an image that contrasts with the ages-long assumptions about women based on myth, religion,

and prejudice. On a solid body of scientific evidence the female of the species emerges as the more complete realization of evolutionary development whose potential has been limited by patriarchal barriers. The assumption that the destiny of woman is procreation, which represents the fulfillment of her mission in the world, is effectively challenged. Procreation has been the heaviest burden that women have been forced to bear serving to justify the male claim to authority and power. But, the female biological, intellectual and emotional qualities are superior and they may be summoned when men drive civilization to the brink of self-annihilation and they are forced to cry out for help, the help from women, as they have throughout the ages. A new edition of the book is badly needed, one that would incorporate the advances in genetics and evolutionary brain development achieved since its publication more than ten years ago. Luis Rodriguez-Abad, Professor of Sociology
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A must read
By Ron Blouch
A spectacular book by a clear thinking, open minded author who is beholden to no orthodoxy yet not operating on the far fringe of the believable. Angier's take on the female body and the science that we use to explain it is refreshing and mind expanding at the same time. A must read for women and men alike.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars
By Susan TFascinating and funny

National Book Award finalist A New York Times notable book
"A tour de force, a wonderful, entertaining and informative book." Abraham Verghese, New York Times Book Review
After fifteen years in print, *Woman* remains an essential guide to everything from organs to orgasms and hormones to hysterectomies. With her characteristic clarity, insight, and sheer exuberance of language, bestselling author Natalie Angier cuts through the still prevalent myths and misinformation surrounding the female body, that most enigmatic of evolutionary masterpieces. *Woman* is a witty and assured narrative with a reliable grasp of science.

.com
Despite scientific evidence to the contrary, as far as the health care profession is concerned the standard operating design of the human body is male. So when a book comes along as beautifully written and endlessly informative as Natalie Angier's *Woman: An Intimate Geography*, it's a cause for major celebration. Written with whimsy and eloquence, her investigation into female physiology draws its inspiration not only from scientific and medical sources but also from mythology, history, art, and literature, layering biological factoids with her own personal encounters and arcane anecdotes from the history of science. Who knew, for example, that the clitoris--with 8,000 nerve fibers--packs double the pleasure of the penis; that the gene controlling cellular sensitivity to male androgens, ironically enough, resides on the X-chromosome; or that stress hormones like cortisol and corticosterone are the true precursors of friendship? The mysteries of evolution are not a new subject for Angier, a Pulitzer Prize-winning biology writer for the New York Times whose previous books include *The Beauty of the Beastly* and *Natural Obsessions*. The strengths of *Woman* begin with Angier's witty and evocative prose style, but its real contribution is the way it expands the definition of female "geography" beyond womb, breasts, and estrogen, down as far as the bimolecular substructure of DNA and up as high as the transcendent infrastructure of the human brain. --Patrizia DiLucchio
From Publishers Weekly
Did postmenopausal women invent the human race? Are males more similar to females than females are to males? These are among the many stimulating questions at the core of Angier's provocative "scientific fantasia of womanhood," a spirited and thoroughly informed
Aif admittedly biased
Astudy of how the body is "a map of meaning and freedom." Angier (*The Beauty of the Beastly*; *Natural Obsessions*) presents new theories on the evolution of women's anatomy, physiology and social behaviors. She points out, for example, that the X chromosome has a "vastly higher gene richness" than the Y, which by contrast is "a depauperized little stump," and she champions the argument of anthropologist Kristen Hawkes that the role of postmenopausal grandmothers, who could help younger females nurture their weaned but still dependent offspring, "invented youth.... And in inventing childhood, they invented the human race. They created *Homo imperialis*, a species that can go anywhere and exploit everything." With wit and verve, Angier discusses such topics as ovulation, conception and birth; the social and physiological functions of breasts; orgasm, mate selection and child-rearing behavior; the complex workings of estrogen; hysterectomy; muscle strength; and female aggression and bonding. Her wide-ranging celebration of the female body engages the intellect but, more importantly, also offers a rigorous challenge to male-oriented theories of biology. BOMC selection; author tour. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.
From Library Journal
The Pulitzer Prize-winning Angier has prompted a lot of type with this funny and insightful mapping of women's history through our beastly, complicated bodies--from our popular breasts to our slippery DNA. This keen-eyed, provocative study challenges some of the mythology asserted by evolutionary science to date. (LJ 2/1/99) Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.