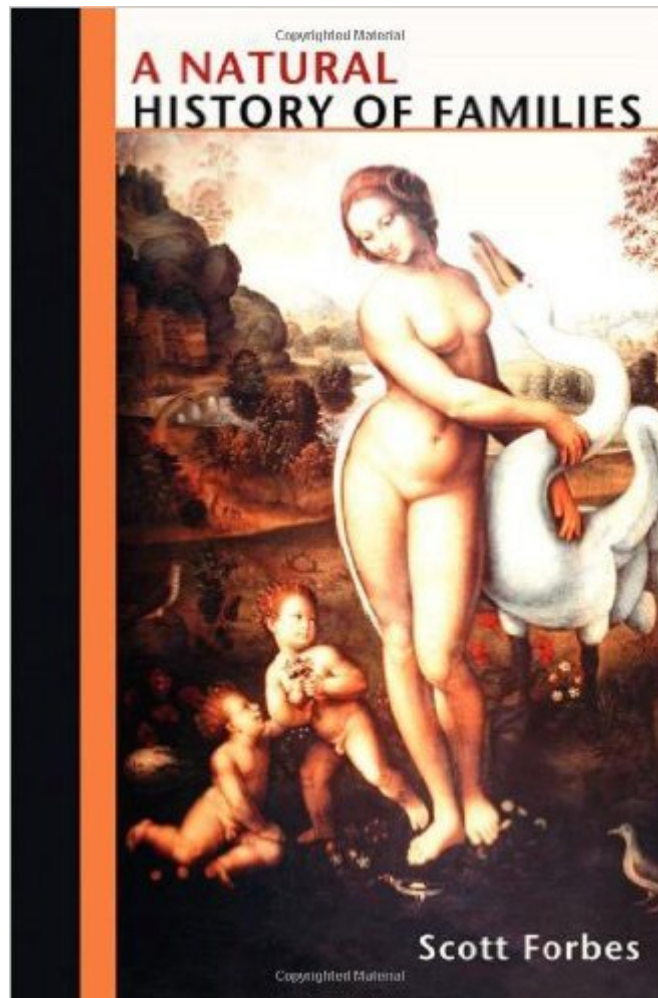


The book was found

A Natural History Of Families



Synopsis

Why do baby sharks, hyenas, and pelicans kill their siblings? Why do beetles and mice commit infanticide? Why are twins and birth defects more common in older human mothers? *A Natural History of Families* concisely examines what behavioral ecologists have discovered about family dynamics and what these insights might tell us about human biology and behavior. Scott Forbes's engaging account describes an uneasy union among family members in which rivalry for resources often has dramatic and even fatal consequences. In nature, parents invest resources and control the allocation of resources among their offspring to perpetuate their genetic lineage. Those families sometimes function as cooperative units, the nepotistic and loving havens we choose to identify with. In the natural world, however, dysfunctional familial behavior is disarmingly commonplace. While explaining why infanticide, fratricide, and other seemingly antisocial behaviors are necessary, Forbes also uncovers several surprising applications to humans. Here the conflict begins in the moments following conception as embryos struggle to wrest control of pregnancy from the mother, and to wring more nourishment from her than she can spare, thus triggering morning sickness, diabetes, and high blood pressure. Mothers, in return, often spontaneously abort embryos with severe genetic defects, allowing for prenatal quality control of offspring. Using a broad sweep of entertaining examples culled from the world of animals and humans, *A Natural History of Families* is a lively introduction to the behavioral ecology of the family.

Book Information

Hardcover: 256 pages

Publisher: Princeton University Press; First Edition edition (May 29, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0691094829

ISBN-13: 978-0691094823

Product Dimensions: 9.5 x 6.4 x 0.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (2 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #373,941 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #364 in [Books > Science & Math > Nature & Ecology > Natural History](#) #950 in [Books > Science & Math > Biological Sciences > Zoology](#) #1014 in [Books > Science & Math > Biological Sciences > Ecology](#)

Customer Reviews

I bought this book for a graduate level behavior class at my university and I was impressed. At first,

I was skeptical of the writing style after being used to reading labs but I was hooked once I got into it. The writing level is easily understandable yet remains intelligent. Also the author draws fantastic comparisons to history and pop culture to relate to all readers.

This book examines the different modes of reproduction and different types of family structures in the natural world, with an emphasis on vertebrates, especially birds and mammals. The goal is to see how different behavioral patterns and reproductive modes found in different species help to further the evolutionary survival of each species. The book examines this topic from multiple standpoints such as genetics, phenotypes, embryology, ecology, statistics, and common sense. The title of the book is a misnomer as there is little history in that the author does not examine extinct species, but only presently occurring species. The author also concentrates on how things exist now, and does not delve deep into how breeding patterns, courtship rituals, family structures and other issues related to sexual reproduction evolved over time. The book repeats many points over and over again, which though tedious, makes the text helpful for the novice reader. This repetition also provides smooth transitions from one chapter to the next. As a book based on science, there is a lot of references to scientific literature, which is good. There are also sufficient diagrams, which is good. The book should have included more examples from non-vertebrates, such as invertebrates, plants, and maybe even fungi, if examples are possible. Overall, an interesting read.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Natural Gas Trading: From Natural Gas Stocks to Natural Gas Futures- Your Complete, Step-by-Step Guide to Natural Gas Trading Families in Poverty (Families in the 21st Century, Vol. 1) Financial Aid for Persons with Disabilities and Their Families 2012-2014 (Financial Aid for the Disabled and Their Families) A Natural History of Families Photographing Families: Use Natural Light, Flash, Posing, and More to Create Professional Images The House by the Lake: One House, Five Families, and a Hundred Years of German History 97 Orchard: An Edible History of Five Immigrant Families in One New York Tenement A Strange Eventful History: The Dramatic Lives of Ellen Terry, Henry Irving, and Their Remarkable Families Super Natural Every Day: Well-Loved Recipes from My Natural Foods Kitchen Natural Pet Cures: Dog & Cat Care the Natural Way Natural Horse-Man-Ship: Six Keys to a Natural Horse-Human Relationship (A Western Horseman Book) The Soapmaker's Companion: A Comprehensive Guide with Recipes, Techniques & Know-How (Natural Body Series - The Natural Way to Enhance Your Life) Chronic Candidiasis: Your Natural Guide to Healing with Diet, Vitamins, Minerals, Herbs, Exercise, and Other Natural Methods The Natural Menopause Handbook: Herbs, Nutrition, & Other Natural Therapies Natures

Own Candida Cure (Natural Health Guide) (Alive Natural Health Guides) Natural Woman, Natural Menopause Nature Designs: Amazing Natural Flowers and Women Patterns to Relax and Reduce Stress (nature sesigns, beautiful woman, natural patterns) The Beginners Guide to Natural Hair: How to Begin Your Natural Hair Journey Today Natural Hair Transitioning: How to Transition from Relaxed to Natural Hair Natural Disasters Droughts Macmillan Library (Natural Disasters - Macmillan Library)

[Dmca](#)