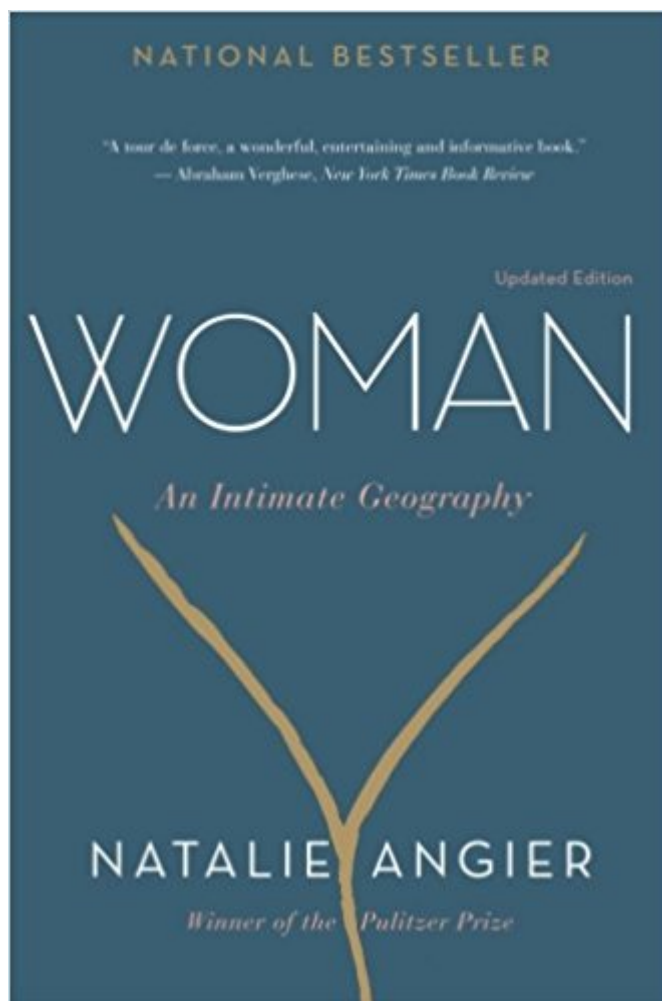


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Woman: An Intimate Geography



Synopsis

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.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

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 --This text refers to the Audio Cassette edition.

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 (and admittedly biased) study 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. --This text refers to the Audio Cassette edition.

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.

Fascinating and funny

I was assigned this book as a textbook for my biology of women class, along with a more text book-y title, *The Second X*, and another novel-y one, *Birth in Four Cultures*. I have had a hard time

keeping up with the other two text books because I can't put this one down. I have never looked forward to reading a textbook before like I look forward to this one. Believe I'll be giving a copy to my midwife as a post birth gift.

Fascinating information. Now that I know young children have a hormonal rush around the age of four, I'm much more patient with my four year old daughter. I guess I empathize. If you're the mother of a daughter, it's a must read. Hopefully for both of you. The information on sexually transmitted diseases is the best I've read. Remember when we were told not to be promiscuous? Well, if anyone had explained it to me like this, I would've said NO, instead of YES. There's a much better way to explain the risks of STD's that is currently being passed on.

Love this book! everyone must read it!

very good condition for the price a good for personal use if it was a gift i would spend more for better condition havent started reading it yet but have flicked through and it seems really interesting a male friend recommeded it ...its good to know men are reading the book..:)

Love the book.

good and informative

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