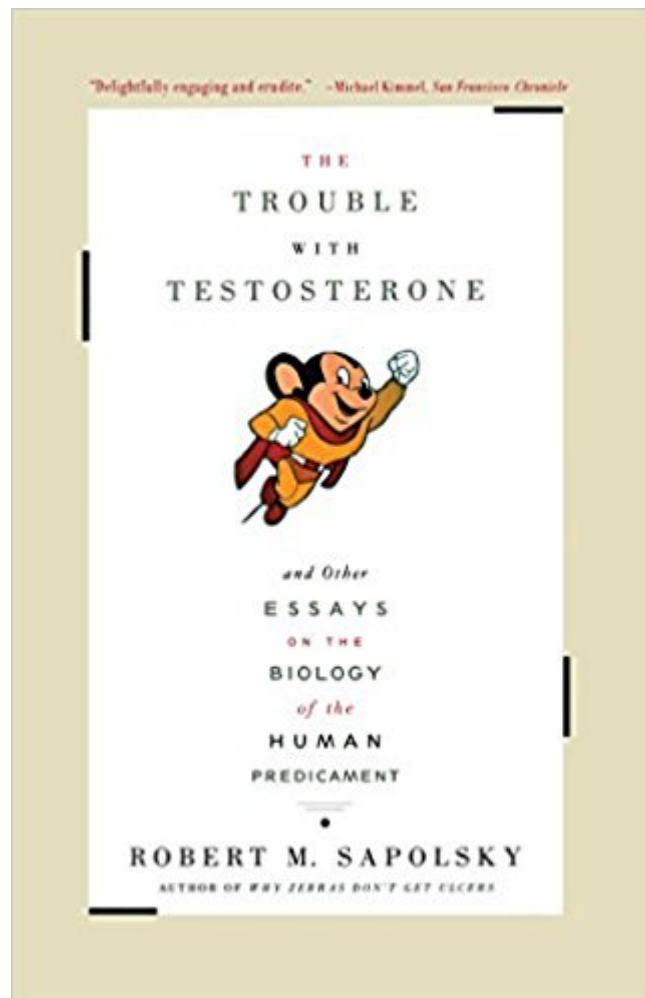




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The Trouble With Testosterone: And Other Essays On The Biology Of The Human Predicament



Synopsis

Finalist for the Los Angeles Times Book Prize From the man who Oliver Sacks hailed as "one of the best scientist/writers of our time," a collection of sharply observed, uproariously funny essays on the biology of human culture and behavior. In the tradition of Stephen Jay Gould and Oliver Sacks, Robert Sapolsky offers a sparkling and erudite collection of essays about science, the world, and our relation to both. "The Trouble with Testosterone" explores the influence of that notorious hormone on male aggression. "Curious George's Pharmacy" reexamines recent exciting claims that wild primates know how to medicate themselves with forest plants. "Junk Food Monkeys" relates the adventures of a troop of baboons who stumble upon a tourist garbage dump. And "Circling the Blanket for God" examines the neurobiological roots underlying religious belief. Drawing on his career as an evolutionary biologist and neurobiologist, Robert Sapolsky writes about the natural world vividly and insightfully. With candor, humor, and rich observations, these essays marry cutting-edge science with humanity, illuminating the interconnectedness of the world's inhabitants with skill and flair.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

As a professor of biology and neuroscience at Stanford and a recipient of a MacArthur Foundation "genius grant," Robert Sapolsky carries impressive credentials. Best of all, he's a gifted writer who possesses a delightfully devilish sense of humor. In these essays, which range widely but mostly focus on the relationships between biology and human behavior, hard and intricate science is handled with a deft touch that makes it accessible to the general reader. In one memorable piece,

Sapolsky compares the fascination with tabloid TV to behavior he's observed among wild African baboons. "Rubber necks," notes the professor, "seem to be a common feature of the primate order." In the title essay of *The Trouble with Testosterone*, Sapolsky ruminates on the links, real or perceived, between that hormone and aggression. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Ask fans of popular science to name the best science essayists today, and the name of Sapolsky should not immediately come to mind. This book should help to change that. Sapolsky, a biologist at Stanford and a contributor to *Discover* magazine, writes on the biological aspects of human behavior. Subjects in this provocative and highly literate collection include male aggression, the onset of puberty, the psychology of guilt, and possible connections between madness and religious experience. The author implicitly invites readers to ponder two recurring themes: there are no simple answers to questions of why people act the way they do, and even the most deviant behaviors can be seen as "normal" behaviors taken to extremes. This book offers lots to think about. Highly recommended. ?Gregg Sapp, Univ. of Miami Lib., Coral Gables, Fla. Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Robert Sapolsky have a unique way to explain very difficult concepts in a simple and interesting way. This book have a collection of highly interesting essays about behavior, how the brain works and neuroscience. He makes you have another perspective. Read it and see for yourself what I mean!

This is honestly a bit more engaging than his other book, *Why Don't Zebras Get Ulcers?* That book falls into a very mechanical description of physiological responses to stress which, while informative, lack the real punch that come with the insights he draws on here from his experience in primatology, psychology etc.

Although his tone can be haughty and arch, Sapolsky's lively prose and self-critical openness help keep one reading his fascinating insights into current biological understandings of human and animal behavior. Each older essay has an update and a bibliography.

A teacher of latest scientific discoveries par excellence. An ambassador from one planet to another.

The same qualities that make Sapolsky one of the most popular teachers at Stanford come through in his writing. Although I was an English major, I took his human behavioral biology class because the man has a well-deserved reputation for being entertaining and thought-provoking. If you attend one of his lectures, you'll find students from all disciplines, all wide-awake. Sapolsky makes the biology of the human condition come to life without compromising the integrity of its scientific underpinnings. This book is especially recommended to those with an interest in biology or psychology, but the appeal is universal.

As always, Sapolsky delivers a piece of eloquent biological writing. This book is a collection of essays he had written for various science magazines. This book was published some time in the 90's but the information is still relevant. Easy and fun to read.

Great read, interesting content

Fascinating insights into human behavior as influenced by our biology. Dr. Sapolsky is a delightful communicator, with vast knowledge and a sprightly sense of humor. Fun reading.

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