The Prehistory of Sex: Four Million Years of Human Sexual Culture

By Taylor, Timothy L.


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Reviews

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In prehistory, what idea did early humans have of fatherhood? What did they consider to be attractive physical features? Was a distinction made between heterosexuality and homosexuality? These questions are addressed in this book, using new techniques to examine archaeological remains and evolutionary evidence of the prehistoric way of life. The impact of distinctive physical features of the human species is assessed, and sociological developments are also considered. Looking at prehistory in this way raises questions about our own lives in the late 20th century, and the author discusses fiercely-debated modern questions as to whether sexuality is genetically determined, or whether it is nature or nurture which governs our behaviour. The Prehistory of Sex: Fo has been added to your Cart. Buy used: $11.99. Four million years ago in Africa, a small group of chimplike creatures began walking exclusively on their hind legs. The reason they did so is debated, but it marked a profound turning point, leading to the emergence of modern people. Our tree-swinging ancestors were very successful breeders. By taking a long view of the evolution of human sexual culture--by seeing what people actually did, rather than making claims about what they ought to have done--we will be better able to consider our options for the next four million years. Read more. Product details.
From cave art to penis sheaths, from the personal tragedies of death in childbirth to the grand symbols of Stonehenge, this is a collection and analysis of a wide range of artefacts and written records relevant to the sexual history of mankind. Read more Rating: (not yet rated) 0 with reviews - Be the first. Subjects. Sex customs -- History. Sex -- history. Sex customs. View all subjects. More like this. Does Me Tarzan, you Jane basically sum up the sexual lives of our prehistoric ancestors? Not even close, argues British archaeologist and BBC documentarian Timothy Taylor, in The Prehistory of Sex: Four Million Years of Human Sexual Culture, the nothing if not stimulating catalog of erotic ancient history. Â With an irreverent, witty style, Taylor boldly posits widespread prehistoric use of herbal birth control and abortifacients, says that the Stone Age Venus figurines are no mother goddesses but very primitive Playboy playmates, and argues that human beings have always defied Sigmund Freudâ€™s claim that anatomy is destiny sexual or otherwise. Â The Prehistory of Sex surveys for the first time, the development of human sexual culture in its entirety, from our remote evolutionary origins through to recent times, on the basis of archaeological evidence. From cave art to penis sheaths, from the personal tragedies of death in childbirth to the grand symbols of Stonehenge, Tim Taylor has assembled and analysed an enormous range of artefacts and written records to produce a remarkable sexual history of mankind, at once rigorous and highly readable. Â Examining the data of four million years, the author has found sexual diversity to be a constant and vital force in human development and argues that sexuality cannot be understood in purely biological terms: culture plays just as important a role. This list is generated based on data provided by CrossRef. Goodison, Lucy and Morris, Christine 2014. A Companion to Gender Prehistory. p. 265. CrossRef. Google Scholar. Timothy Taylor, The prehistory of sex: four million years of human sexual culture. xiv+353 pages, 62 illustrations. 1996 London: Fourth Estate; 185702-352-8 hardback Â£18.99. Marcia-Anne Dobres (a1). (a1). Archaeological Research Facility Department of Anthropology University of California, Berkeley (CA). Dobres@QAL.berkeley.edu. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1017/S0003598X00086130.