



## Sperm Wars: The Science of Sex

*By Robin Baker*

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### **Sperm Wars: The Science of Sex** By Robin Baker

This revolutionary book demonstrates that sexual behavior is driven by neither the psyche nor the conscious mind, but by biological imperatives programmed into us millions of years ago. Argues that a man's sexual behavior is based on the expectation that his sperm will have to compete with other men's sperm to fertilize the descending egg, & women are programmed to promote this sperm warfare. Uses a series of fictional scenes involving some form of sexual contact, followed by an interpretation of each scene from the viewpoint of an evolutionary biologist. Provides a strikingly original & fascinating window into sexual behavior.

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## **Sperm Wars: The Science of Sex** By Robin Baker Bibliography

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## **Editorial Review**

### **Amazon.com Review**

If you've ever looked upon sperm as a little army of white-coated soldiers setting off to sack and pillage a barely pregnable fortress . . . well, you'd be right, according to this fascinating new book. Dr. Robin Baker, who has studied sperm and cervical mucus in much greater detail than anyone would've thought necessary, has come to some startling conclusions: that less than 1 percent of sperm is actually designed to fertilize an egg (the rest are there to block other men's sperm), and that 4 to 10 percent of all children born to married couples are in fact the offspring of other men, usually of higher socioeconomic status, with whom the mother had a short-term relationship.

### **From Publishers Weekly**

The major force in the shaping of human sexuality, claims British biologist Baker in this highly unorthodox study, is "sperm warfare," the competition among sperm from two or more men competing inside a woman to fertilize the egg. In this theory, biological imperatives shaped by evolution dictate sexual behavior. Male sexual behavior is driven by each man's need to prevent his female sexual partner from exposing his sperm to competition; or, failing that, to give his sperm the best chance of winning. A woman's sexual behavior, meanwhile, reflects her urge to maneuver her partner or to influence which male's sperm will have the best chance of succeeding. Baker views infidelity, group sex, partner-swapping, even rape and prostitution as risky strategies that nevertheless may enhance an individual's reproductive success compared with long-term monogamy. Men, he says, pursue four reproductive strategies: bisexuality, pursuit or avoidance of sperm warfare and a balancing of this pursuit/avoidance. Just which strategy a male is programmed to adopt will depend largely on his rate of sperm production. Baker's treatise unfolds as a series of graphic, fictional sex scenes, each followed by interpretive commentary. Its reliance on evolutionary biology to explain human behavior is reductionist, much in the manner of the writings of "selfish gene" proponent Richard Dawkins, but it is also challenging, intellectually provocative and likely to raise considerable and deserved debate. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.

### **From Library Journal**

Baker is a biologist who studies human behavior, in this case sex, in intimate detail. The questions that interest him?"Why do men inseminate enough sperm at each intercourse to fertilize the entire population of the United States, twice over?"are certainly curiosities. Most of the explicit sexual scenarios Baker reviews with his evolutionary eye are recognizable but seem abnormal and gratuitous. Given the lack of citations to other academic work, the book ends up being little more than elegant, sexually explicit intellectual musings on a subject that is likely to titillate and embarrass. Suggested theories explaining the evolutionary value of masturbation and homosexuality are vaguely compelling, but without the intellectual framework of cited works, it is difficult to take this book seriously. Without a carefully cited bibliography to accompany the text, this cannot be recommended for the general public.?Constance A. Rinaldo, Dartmouth Coll. Biomedical Libs., Hanover, N.H.

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## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

**John Householder:**

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**Gregory Phipps:**

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**Shaun Sae:**

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