

sex at dawn how we mate why we stray and what it means for modern relationships

****Sex at Dawn: How We Mate, Why We Stray, and What It Means for Modern Relationships****

sex at dawn how we mate why we stray and what it means for modern relationships is a fascinating exploration into the roots of human sexuality and the often complex dynamics of our romantic lives today. The idea challenges many traditional views on monogamy and fidelity by looking back to our evolutionary past. By examining how early humans formed bonds and why patterns of infidelity might be more natural than we think, we can better understand the challenges and opportunities in contemporary relationships.

The Evolutionary Backdrop: How We Mate

When we think about human mating behaviors, it's tempting to assume that monogamy has always been the norm. However, the book **Sex at Dawn** by Christopher Ryan and Cacilda Jethá turns this assumption on its head. They argue that pre-agricultural humans lived in small, egalitarian groups where sexual relationships were far more fluid and communal than the exclusive pair bonds we often idealize today.

Our Primate Relatives and Sexual Behavior

Looking at our closest animal relatives provides clues about our own past. Bonobos and chimpanzees, two of the species most closely related to humans, exhibit very different mating systems. Bonobos are known for their promiscuous and highly social sexual interactions, which are used to build alliances and reduce tension within the group. Chimpanzees, on the other hand, show more competitive and hierarchical mating behaviors.

The takeaway? Our ancestors likely had a flexible approach to mating that wasn't strictly monogamous. This flexibility would have helped build social bonds and ensured group cohesion—crucial for survival in harsh environments.

The Agricultural Revolution and the Rise of Monogamy

The shift to farming and settled communities around 10,000 years ago drastically changed human social structures. With property, inheritance, and wealth accumulation becoming important, exclusive pair bonds—and by

extension, monogamy—gained prominence. This shift helped establish clear lines of paternity and family rights, which were important in agricultural societies.

But this relatively recent development doesn't erase millions of years of evolutionary history. It means that many of our instincts and desires may still be at odds with the cultural expectations of lifelong monogamy.

Why We Stray: The Biological and Psychological Drivers

One of the most controversial aspects of **Sex at Dawn** is its discussion of infidelity—not as a moral failing, but as a natural behavior rooted in our evolutionary past.

Human Sexuality Is Complex

Sex isn't just about reproduction for humans; it's deeply tied to social bonding, pleasure, and status. From an evolutionary perspective, having multiple sexual partners could increase genetic diversity and improve offspring survival. Moreover, it's thought that the desire to stray may stem from instincts to seek better genetic matches or to hedge bets in uncertain environments.

Emotional Needs and Relationship Dynamics

Infidelity often isn't just about physical attraction—it can signal unmet emotional needs. The **Sex at Dawn** perspective suggests that modern relationships sometimes fail to satisfy the complex social and sexual cravings humans evolved to have. When partners expect exclusivity in both emotional and sexual realms, it can create tension, especially if those needs aren't being fully met.

Monogamy vs. Natural Instincts

While many people successfully navigate monogamous relationships, others find the expectations difficult or unnatural. This isn't a universal truth—human beings are incredibly adaptable—but it does help explain why infidelity is such a persistent phenomenon across cultures and history.

What It Means for Modern Relationships

Understanding the insights from **Sex at Dawn** can open up new ways of thinking about love, commitment, and sexual satisfaction in today's world.

Reevaluating Relationship Models

Modern couples might benefit from questioning traditional assumptions about fidelity and monogamy. This doesn't mean abandoning commitment or trust but rather recognizing that different people have different needs. Some couples explore consensual non-monogamy, polyamory, or open relationships as ways to align their relationship structure with their natural desires.

Communication as a Cornerstone

Whether in monogamous or non-monogamous arrangements, open and honest communication is vital. Discussing boundaries, desires, and expectations can help partners navigate their relationship without the secrecy and betrayal that often accompany infidelity.

Prioritizing Emotional Intimacy and Trust

Even if sexual exclusivity is challenged, building emotional intimacy and trust remains crucial. Understanding that sexual behavior can be more fluid doesn't mean relationships lose their depth. Instead, it encourages partners to focus on what truly binds them—whether that's love, respect, shared values, or companionship.

Integrating the Science of Sex at Dawn into Daily Life

How can these evolutionary insights be applied practically in relationships today? Here are some thoughtful approaches:

- **Reflect on your own needs:** Understanding your desires and boundaries helps you communicate them effectively to your partner.
- **Be open to exploring:** This might mean trying new relationship models or simply discussing fantasies and curiosities without judgment.

- **Challenge stigma:** Recognize that human sexuality is diverse and that deviating from societal norms doesn't equate to dysfunction.
- **Foster mutual respect:** Whatever the relationship style, respect for each other's feelings and choices is paramount.

The Role of Therapy and Counseling

Many couples benefit from seeking professional help when navigating the complexities of desire and fidelity. Therapists familiar with non-traditional relationship structures can provide guidance that's informed by evolutionary psychology, helping couples create fulfilling partnerships that feel authentic and sustainable.

Broader Cultural Implications

Sex at Dawn also invites us to reconsider cultural narratives around love and sex. Mainstream media often promotes a "one true love" ideal that can feel restrictive or unrealistic. By acknowledging our evolutionary heritage and the natural diversity of human mating strategies, society can become more inclusive and understanding of different relationship choices.

This shift could reduce shame and guilt around infidelity and relationship dissatisfaction, replacing them with compassion and curiosity about what truly makes people happy and fulfilled.

Exploring the themes of *sex at dawn how we mate why we stray and what it means for modern relationships* encourages us to view human sexuality through a broader lens—one that honors our biological past while embracing the complexities of modern love. It challenges us to rethink what commitment and fidelity mean and how we can build relationships that are both honest and deeply satisfying. Whether you're navigating the challenges of monogamy or exploring alternative relationship models, understanding these evolutionary insights offers a valuable foundation for personal growth and connection.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main thesis of 'Sex at Dawn: How We

Mate, Why We Stray, and What It Means for Modern Relationships'?

The main thesis of 'Sex at Dawn' is that human beings evolved in small, egalitarian groups with a more promiscuous and non-monogamous mating system, challenging the traditional views of monogamy as the natural or default human relationship model.

How does 'Sex at Dawn' explain the concept of monogamy in modern relationships?

'Sex at Dawn' suggests that monogamy is not a natural state for humans but rather a cultural construct that emerged with agriculture and property ownership, which contrasts with our evolutionary history of more fluid and cooperative sexual relationships.

What evidence do the authors of 'Sex at Dawn' use to support their arguments about human sexuality?

The authors draw on evidence from anthropology, primatology, evolutionary biology, and ethnographic studies of hunter-gatherer societies to argue that early human sexual behavior was characterized by sharing and multiple partners, rather than exclusive pair bonding.

According to 'Sex at Dawn,' why do people stray or engage in infidelity in modern relationships?

'Sex at Dawn' posits that infidelity is often a result of conflicting evolutionary drives and the mismatch between our ancestral mating systems and modern cultural expectations of strict monogamy, leading to dissatisfaction and secretive behaviors.

How can understanding the ideas in 'Sex at Dawn' benefit modern relationships?

By recognizing that human sexuality is diverse and flexible, couples can foster more honest communication, explore non-traditional relationship models, and reduce shame or guilt associated with sexual desires, ultimately leading to healthier and more fulfilling partnerships.

What criticisms have been raised against the arguments presented in 'Sex at Dawn'?

Critics argue that 'Sex at Dawn' sometimes oversimplifies complex evolutionary and cultural dynamics, selectively uses data, and underestimates the role of pair bonding and monogamy in human evolution, suggesting that its conclusions may not fully reflect the diversity of human sexual behavior.

Additional Resources

Sex at Dawn: How We Mate, Why We Stray, and What It Means for Modern Relationships

sex at dawn how we mate why we stray and what it means for modern relationships is a provocative topic that has garnered significant attention since the publication of the landmark book **Sex at Dawn** by Christopher Ryan and Cacilda Jethá. Challenging conventional wisdom about human sexuality, monogamy, and relationship dynamics, the book delves into evolutionary biology, anthropology, and psychology to question why humans behave the way they do when it comes to mating and fidelity. This exploration is crucial as it has profound implications for how modern relationships are understood, managed, and navigated.

The Premise of Sex at Dawn: Reevaluating Human Sexuality

Sex at Dawn posits that the traditional narrative about human mating—rooted in the idea of lifelong monogamous pairs—is a relatively recent cultural imposition rather than an evolutionary constant. Instead, Ryan and Jethá argue that early human societies were characterized by more communal and promiscuous sexual behaviors. This challenges the dominant social paradigm that frames monogamy as the "natural" way humans are meant to pair-bond.

The authors draw on evidence from primatology, archaeology, and cross-cultural studies, comparing human sexual behavior with that of our closest evolutionary relatives, such as bonobos and chimpanzees. Unlike many other mammals, these primates exhibit varied mating systems, including promiscuity and social bonding outside of strict pair bonds. This comparative approach invites readers to reconsider the biological underpinnings of human sexuality beyond cultural constructs.

Human Evolutionary Biology and Mating Systems

From an evolutionary perspective, mating strategies are often shaped by reproductive success and survival advantages. **Sex at Dawn** suggests that early humans engaged in multi-partner mating systems to increase group cohesion, reduce sexual competition, and ensure the survival of offspring through shared parenting.

This contrasts sharply with the long-standing "serial monogamy" model prevalent in modern societies, which assumes exclusivity and sexual fidelity as default relationship traits. The book highlights that jealousy, infidelity, and dissatisfaction in monogamous relationships may stem from this mismatch between evolved sexual instincts and contemporary social

expectations.

Why We Stray: Biological and Psychological Drivers

One of the most contentious aspects of **Sex at Dawn** is its exploration of infidelity and why some individuals stray from committed relationships. The authors argue that infidelity is not merely a moral failing or a breakdown of character, but rather, it can be seen as an expression of natural sexual tendencies that evolved in different social contexts.

Neurochemical Factors and Human Desire

Human sexual behavior is influenced by a complex interplay of hormones and neurotransmitters such as dopamine, oxytocin, and vasopressin. While oxytocin is linked to bonding and attachment, dopamine is associated with reward and novelty-seeking—often driving the desire for new sexual experiences. This neurochemical duality helps explain why humans may experience conflicting impulses toward both monogamy and promiscuity.

Studies in behavioral psychology support the notion that novelty can enhance sexual satisfaction and motivation, potentially making long-term monogamy challenging for some individuals without additional emotional or relational work.

Social and Cultural Influences on Fidelity

Cultural norms and societal structures heavily influence how fidelity is perceived and enforced. While many cultures promote monogamous relationships as the ideal, others have historically accepted or even institutionalized non-monogamous arrangements such as polygamy or communal parenting.

The tension between biological predispositions and cultural expectations often creates internal conflict, which may manifest as infidelity or relationship dissatisfaction. **Sex at Dawn** encourages a more compassionate and nuanced understanding of this dynamic, suggesting that exploring alternative relationship models could better accommodate human sexual diversity.

Implications for Modern Relationships

Understanding the insights from **Sex at Dawn** requires applying them

thoughtfully to contemporary relationships. This does not mean endorsing infidelity or rejecting monogamy outright, but rather recognizing that human sexuality is complex, multifaceted, and not adequately described by a single model.

Monogamy vs. Non-Monogamy: Pros and Cons

Modern couples face choices about relationship structures, often navigating between monogamous and consensually non-monogamous arrangements. Each approach has distinct advantages and challenges:

- **Monogamy:** Offers emotional security, social acceptance, and simpler relationship boundaries, but may also lead to boredom, unmet desires, or pressure to conform to ideals that conflict with innate impulses.
- **Non-Monogamy:** Can provide sexual variety, personal freedom, and honesty about desires but requires high levels of communication, trust, and emotional regulation to manage jealousy and complexity.

Awareness of evolutionary and psychological factors, as highlighted in **Sex at Dawn* how we mate why we stray and what it means for modern relationships*, can help individuals and couples choose structures that align with their needs and values rather than societal expectations alone.

Communication and Relationship Satisfaction

Central to the discussion is the role of open communication. Couples who discuss their sexual needs, boundaries, and expectations candidly tend to experience higher satisfaction, regardless of the relationship model they adopt. Recognizing that attraction and desire can fluctuate—and that straying may sometimes be symptomatic of unmet needs rather than moral failure—can foster empathy and proactive problem-solving.

Therapeutic and Social Perspectives

Therapists and counselors increasingly incorporate findings from evolutionary psychology and books like **Sex at Dawn** into relationship counseling. By framing relationship challenges within a broader biological and cultural context, professionals can help clients navigate feelings of guilt, jealousy, and confusion more constructively.

Moreover, social attitudes toward relationships are gradually shifting, with greater acceptance of diverse relationship forms. This evolution reflects a

growing recognition that rigid adherence to monogamous norms may not suit everyone, paving the way for more personalized and flexible approaches to intimacy.

Broader Cultural Impact and Critiques

While **Sex at Dawn** has been influential, it is not without critics. Some scholars argue that the book overemphasizes promiscuity in prehistoric humans or selectively interprets data to support its thesis. Others caution against dismissing the value of monogamy, emphasizing that social structures around pair-bonding have also played a crucial role in human survival and social organization.

Despite these debates, the book has undeniably sparked important conversations about human sexuality, encouraging a more evidence-based and less judgmental discourse.

Key Takeaways for Relationship Dynamics

- Human sexual behavior is diverse and influenced by both biology and culture.
- Monogamy is not the only natural or feasible relationship model.
- Understanding evolutionary origins can reduce stigma around infidelity and non-monogamy.
- Open communication and honesty are vital for managing complex desires and expectations.
- Modern relationships benefit from flexibility and personalization rather than strict conformity.

The insights from **sex at dawn how we mate why we stray and what it means for modern relationships** encourage individuals and society to rethink traditional narratives about love, fidelity, and human nature. By embracing a more nuanced perspective, we can foster healthier, more authentic connections that honor the complexity of human desire and companionship.

[Sex At Dawn How We Mate Why We Stray And What It Means](#)

For Modern Relationships

sex at dawn how we mate why we stray and what it means for modern relationships:

Summary of Sex at Dawn Topknots Series Publishing, 2021-07-06 Summary Of Sex At Dawn: How We Mate, Why We Stray, And What It Means For Modern Relationships By Christopher Ryan And Cacilda Jethá **DISCLAIMER:** This concise summary is unofficial and is not authorized, approved, licensed, or endorsed by the original book's publisher or author but it's intended as a companion. IT IS A SUMMARIZED WORK OF Topknots Series Publishing ABOUT THE ORIGINAL BOOK Sex At Dawn argues that the idealism of monogamy in Western societies is essentially incompatible with human nature. The book makes a compelling case for our innately promiscuous nature by exploring the history and evolution of human sexuality, with a strong focus on our primate ancestors and the invention of agriculture. Arguing that our distorted view of sexuality ruin our health and keeps us from being happy. Sex At Dawn explains how we can return to a more casual approach to sex that could benefit interpersonal relationships and societies in general. Click the BUY BUTTON and get a Copy NOW to refresh your understanding on Sex At Dawn: How We Mate, Why We Stray, And What It Means For Modern Relationships.

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Summary of Christopher Ryan's Sex at Dawn by Swift Reads Swift Reads, 2019-06-28 Sex at Dawn: How We Mate, Why We Stray, and What It Means for Modern Relationships (2010) details how the courtship habits of humanity's closest primate relatives, the lives of early humans, and the sexual rituals of nomadic tribes all shed light on the true urges underlying human sexuality. Many anthropologists assert that monogamy comes naturally to humans; to support their thesis, they point toward relationship customs that have existed in various civilizations for centuries... Purchase this in-depth summary to learn more.

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sex at dawn how we mate why we stray and what it means for modern relationships: A Bigger Prize Margaret Heffernan, 2014-04-08 Co-winner of the 2015 Salon London Transmission Prize Get into the best schools. Land your next big promotion. Dress for success. Run faster. Play tougher. Work harder. Keep score. And whatever you do -- make sure you win. Competition runs through every aspect of our lives today. From the cubicle to the race track, in business and love, religion and science, what matters now is to be the biggest, fastest, meanest, toughest, richest. The upshot of all these contests? As Margaret Heffernan shows in this eye-opening book, competition regularly backfires, producing an explosion of cheating, corruption, inequality, and risk. The demolition derby of modern life has damaged our ability to work together. But it doesn't have to be this way. CEOs, scientists, engineers, investors, and inventors around the world are pioneering better ways to create great products, build enduring businesses, and grow relationships. Their secret? Generosity. Trust. Time. Theater. From the cranberry bogs of Massachusetts to the classrooms of Singapore and Finland, from tiny start-ups to global engineering firms and beloved American organizations -- like Ocean Spray, Eileen Fisher, Gore, and Boston Scientific -- Heffernan discovers ways of living and working that foster creativity, spark innovation, reinforce our social fabric, and feel so much better than winning.

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American Savage Dan Savage, 2014-05-27 The sex-advice columnist for Savage Love draws on his experience with the It Gets Better campaign to share pithy insights into a range of topics including health care, gun control, and marriage equality.

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Sexuality and Its Disorders Mike Abrams, 2016-11-01 Sexuality and Its Disorders explores

sexuality from an evolutionary perspective using powerful, real-life case studies to help readers provide effective guidance around issues relating to sexuality. Drawing on his 30 years of clinical experience and research, author Mike Abrams provides a comprehensive, evidence-based, and clinically-oriented text with cutting-edge coverage throughout. Discussions include the physical and psychological development of sexual identity; the social aspects of sexual behavior; the many expressions of sexuality; cognitive behavior treatment of sexual problems; and more. The many perspectives of sexuality are examined with interviews and commentaries from major figures in the field—including David M. Buss, Helen Fisher, C. Sue Carter of Kinsey, Todd K. Shackelford, Ken Zucker, and Gordon Gallup—who discuss such topics as the origins of sexuality, the nature of love, the role of attachment, and the treatment of sexual problems.

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sex at dawn how we mate why we stray and what it means for modern relationships: Advanced Spiritual Intimacy Stuart Sovatsky, 2014-05-14 A practical guide for both individuals and couples to transform sexual energy into spiritual and erotic fulfillment • Explains how to awaken advanced stages of sexual development for spiritual intimacy and deep erotic satisfaction • Includes illustrated instructions for exercises and techniques based on yoga, kundalini, breathing practices, mantra chanting, and chakra meditation • Explores how this practice can deepen a life partnership, enhance creativity, heal emotional scars, and awaken new understandings of gender Sexual development does not end in adolescence. There are advanced stages of glandular, emotional, and erotic development based in the lifelong “puberty of the spine.” Known in India as kundalini awakening, these stages form the energetic basis of all yoga forms and deeper erotic aspirations. They present an opportunity for couples and individuals to explore the consciousness-expanding abilities of sexual energy as both spirituality and sexuality transform into what Michel Foucault called *ars erotica*, far beyond the Freudian *scientia sexualis* sexuality of the Western world. Offering a guide to the advanced stages of human sexuality and a passionately infused tantric yoga practice, Stuart Sovatsky explains how to awaken the complete spinal puberty, resulting in spiritual intimacy and orgasmic pineal maturity that far surpasses the gratifications of modern sexuality. With illustrated instructions, he reveals flow-yoga asanas, mantras, and devotional breathing practices for solo kundalini yoga as well as couples’ yoga practices and chakra meditations to awaken the heart and the divinely eroticized mind. He shares inspiring stories from those on this path about ever-deepening life partnerships, enriched family life, enhanced personal creativity, profound new understandings of conception, masculinity, femininity, and gender itself as well as healing emotional scars of romantic breakups and sexual abuse. Sovatsky shows that by transcending conventional Western sexuality and returning to the *ars erotica* beliefs of ancient India, we can harness the divine energy--glimpsed for only an instant by most people--at the heart of all erotic yearning.

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sex at dawn how we mate why we stray and what it means for modern relationships:

Love Anthony Walsh, 2017-07-05 Love is a little word with a universe of meanings and has engaged people's interest throughout human history. The need to give and receive love lies deep within human nature. Philosophers, poets, theologians, sociologists, and scientists have all attempted to explain its exact origin, but is it an evolutionary adaptation, or a social construct? Walsh discusses that the nature of and need for love has biological origins. He draws upon Darwin's sexual selection theory to define the perceptions of love by infants through the process of experience-dependent brain wiring. He observes that mother love makes a child capable of loving and that father love makes a child feel worthy of love. He appraises the origin and purpose of romantic love in his discussions on sexual reproduction by looking at chemical and neurological responses to love and the influence of love on one's physical and mental health. With frequent quotes from literary masters like Shakespeare to orient one's scientific and humanistic understanding of love, Walsh goes on to explore various styles of romantic love, including monogamy, promiscuity, bartering love, and betrayed love; the effects of a skewed sex ratio on dating and mating practices; and the age-old quest for a perfect society populated by perfect people obeying the biblical command to love one another.

sex at dawn how we mate why we stray and what it means for modern relationships: Mindfulness, Acceptance, and the Psychodynamic Evolution Jason M. Stewart, 2014-09-01 In this much-needed book, psychologist Jason M. Stewart offers clinicians a unique, groundbreaking perspective on client treatment that fuses psychodynamic psychotherapy, mindfulness and acceptance-based approaches, and Buddhist psychology. Using the insights in this powerful resource, clinicians will help clients gain greater psychological flexibility, connect with their values and goals, and create a life that is purposeful, meaningful, and vital.

sex at dawn how we mate why we stray and what it means for modern relationships: Six in a Bed Roanne van Voorst, 2024-04-02 Love is the most important and intense experience of our life. It pushes us to elation, to heartbreak, to sing for joy and sob in disappointment. Connecting in this way to others is an essential quality of being human: without love, we don't learn and develop properly as children and we don't flourish as adults - in short, we're starved of what we need. But love is on the verge of monumental change. Sex robots are already on the market, polyamory is gaining ground, drugs are being developed that can make you fall in love, and AI and robotics are set to revolutionize how we relate to each other. Debates about whether more than two people should be able legally to get married are heating up; at the same time, an increasing number of people have decided to stay single and who go by the name of sologamists. The futures anthropologist Roanne van Voorst spent three years researching love's fluid landscape and immersing herself in today's latest trends to gain insight into the human of tomorrow. She cultivated a virtual friendship, hired a rentable friend and an erotic masseuse, shared a bed with sex dolls and flirted with artificial intelligence. She dated and danced in a virtual world, spoke to polyamorists, sologamists, sex workers, pansexuals, asexuals, heterosexuals, homosexuals, men, women, and people who don't accept the binary gender label. She wanted to know how changes to love are changing our species. This book is her brilliantly engaging answer.

sex at dawn how we mate why we stray and what it means for modern relationships: *Sociology of Sexualities* Kathleen J. Fitzgerald, Kandice L. Grossman, 2024-09-02 *Sociology of Sexualities* is an insightful exploration of sexuality through a sociological lens, offering a comprehensive understanding of sexualities and gender identities. The Third Edition brings to light the current societal challenges faced by LGBTQ+ and reproductive rights, the influence of technology on sexuality, and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on sexual behaviors.

sex at dawn how we mate why we stray and what it means for modern relationships: The More Beautiful World Our Hearts Know Is Possible Charles Eisenstein, 2013-11-05 As seen on Oprah's Super Soul Sunday A beacon of hope in the face of our current world crises, this uplifting book demonstrates how embracing our interconnectedness is key to world transformation In a time of social and ecological crisis, what can we as individuals do to make the world a better place? This inspirational and thought-provoking book serves as an empowering antidote to the cynicism,

frustration, paralysis, and overwhelm so many of us are feeling, replacing it with a grounding reminder of what's true: we are all connected, and our small, personal choices bear unsuspected transformational power. By fully embracing and practicing this principle of interconnectedness—called interbeing—we become more effective agents of change and have a stronger positive influence on the world. Throughout the book, Eisenstein relates real-life stories showing how small, individual acts of courage, kindness, and self-trust can change our culture's guiding narrative of separation, which, he shows, has generated the present planetary crisis. He brings to conscious awareness a deep wisdom we all innately know: until we get ourselves in order, any action we take—no matter how good our intentions—will ultimately be wrong-headed and wrong-hearted. Above all, Eisenstein invites us to embrace a radically different understanding of cause and effect, sounding a clarion call to surrender our old worldview of separation, so that we can finally create the more beautiful world our hearts know is possible. With chapters covering separation, interbeing, despair, hope, pain, pleasure, consciousness, and many more, the book invites us to let the old Story of Separation fall away so that we can stand firmly in a Story of Interbeing.

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sex at dawn how we mate why we stray and what it means for modern relationships: Love and Electronic Affection Lindsay D. Grace, 2020-04-30 *Love and Electronic Affection: A Design Primer* brings together thought leadership in romance and affection games to explain the past, present, and possible future of affection play in games. The authors apply a combination of game analysis and design experience in affection play for both digital and analog games. The research and recommendations are intersectional in nature, considering how love and affection in games is a product of both player and designer age, race, class, gender, and more. The book combines game studies with game design to offer a foundation for incorporating affection into playable experiences. The text is organized into two sections. The first section covers the patterns and practice of love and affection in games, explaining the patterns and practice. The second section offers case studies from which designers can learn through example. *Love and Electronic Affection: A Design Primer* is a resource for exploring how digital relationships are offered and how to convey emotion and depth in a variety of virtual worlds. This book provides:

- A catalog of existing digital and analog games for which love and affection are a primary or secondary focus.
- A catalog of the uses of affection in games, to add depth and investment in both human-computer and player-to-player engagement.
- Perspective on affection game analyses and design, using case studies that consider the relationship of culture and affection as portrayed in games from large scale studios to single author independent games.
- Analysis and design recommendations for incorporating affection in games beyond romance, toward parental love, affection between friends, and other relationships.
- Analysis of the moral and philosophical considerations for historical and planned development of love and affection in human-computer interaction.
- An intersectionality informed set of scholarly perspectives from the Americas, Eurasia, and Oceania.

Editor Bio: Lindsay D. Grace is Knight Chair of Interactive Media and an Associate Professor at the University of Miami School of Communication. He is Vice President for the Higher Education Video Game Alliance and the 2019 recipient of the Games for Change Vanguard award. Lindsay is author of *Doing Things with*

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sex at dawn how we mate why we stray and what it means for modern relationships: The Routledge Handbook of Philosophy of Sex and Sexuality Brian D. Earp, Clare Chambers, Lori Watson, 2022-05-23 This Handbook covers the most urgent, controversial, and important topics in the philosophy of sex. It is both philosophically rigorous and yet accessible to specialists and non-specialists, covering ethics, political philosophy, metaphysics, the philosophy of science, and the philosophy of language, and featuring interactions with neighboring disciplines such as psychology, bioethics, sociology, and anthropology. The volume's 40 chapters, written by an international team of both respected senior researchers and essential emerging scholars, are divided into eight parts: I. What is Sex? Is Sex Good? II. Sexual Orientations III. Sexual Autonomy and Consent IV. Regulating Sexual Relationships V. Pathologizing Sex and Sexuality VI. Contested Desires VII. Objectification and Commercialized Sex VIII. Technology and the Future of Sex The broad scope of coverage, depth in insight and research, and accessibility in language make The Routledge Handbook of Philosophy of Sex and Sexuality a comprehensive introduction for newcomers to the subject as well as an invaluable reference work for advanced students and researchers in the field.

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