



Shadows of Forgotten Ancestors

By Carl Sagan, Ann Druyan

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Shadows of Forgotten Ancestors By Carl Sagan, Ann Druyan

"Dazzling...A feast. Absorbing and elegantly written, it tells of the origins of life on earth, describes its variety and character, and culminates in a discussion of human nature and the complex traces of humankind's evolutionary past...It is an amazing story masterfully told."

FINANCIAL TIMES (LONDON)

World renowned scientist Carl Sagan and acclaimed author Ann Druyan have written a *ROOTS* for the human species, a lucid and riveting account of how humans got to be the way we are. It shows with humor and drama that many of our key traits--self-awareness, technology, family ties, submission to authority, hatred for those a little different from ourselves, reason, and ethics--are rooted in the deep past, and illuminated by our kinship with other animals. Astonishing in its scope, brilliant in its insights, and an absolutely compelling read, *SHADOWS OF FORGOTTEN ANCESTORS* is a triumph of popular science.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

In a leisurely, lyrical meditation on the roughly four-[billion]-year span since life dawned on Earth, Sagan and Druyan (*Comet*) argue that territoriality, xenophobia, ethnocentrism, occasional outbreeding and a preference for small, semi-isolated groups are elements in a survival strategy common to many species, including *Homo sapiens*. Yet society's problems, they assert, increasingly demand global solutions and require a dramatic, strategic shift which the authors optimistically believe humankind is capable of achieving. This engaging, humane odyssey offers a stunning refutation of the behavioristic worldview with its mechanistic notion that animals (except for humans) lack conscious awareness. Writing with awe and a command of their material, the husband-wife team cover well-trod terrain while they discuss the evolution of Earth's atmosphere and life forms, the genetic code, the advantages of sexual reproduction. The last third of the book, dealing with chimpanzees, baboons and apes, is the most interesting. Sagan and Druyan find chimps' social life "hauntingly familiar" with its hierarchy, combat, suppression of females and chimps' remarkable ability to communicate through symbols. First serial to *Parade*.

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From Library Journal

Astronomer Sagan is probably the biggest name in popular science writing, a fact that should assure that his latest book--written with his wife, Druyan--will find a wide audience. Sagan's goal is to explain how luck and natural selection combined to produce human beings after three and a half billion years of life on earth. Human behavior, he stresses, results more from similarities with our animal ancestors than from any unique qualities we may possess. Sagan flounders a bit early on in his effort to explain molecular evolution, but he picks up speed later when the focus shifts to primate behavior. Despite a preference for the overly dramatic phrase at the expense of scientific clarity, the argument is coherent throughout. While this is hardly one of the best books on human evolution, it will likely be very popular, especially in public libraries. Previewed in *Prepub Alert*, LJ 6/1/92.

- *Eric Hinsdale, Trinity Univ. Lib., San Antonio*

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From the Publisher

Carl Sagan's reputation is truly awesome (in the old sense of the word), and his writing is terrific. He won the Pulitzer prize; he hosted the Peabody & Emmy award-winning series *Cosmos*; and the book of the same title is the best-selling science book every published in the English language. His wife, Ann Druyan, collaborated with him on many projects.

Mr. Sagan made an immediate connection with a lot of people -- his books are written in such accessible language and with so much wit and intelligence that they have changed not only the way we look at science but also the way we look at life.

This book especially touched many people's lives -- mine included.

A. Krijgsman
Associate Managing Editor

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Rosa Rogers:

This book untitled Shadows of Forgotten Ancestors to be one of several books in which best seller in this year, that is because when you read this publication you can get a lot of benefit onto it. You will easily to buy this specific book in the book store or you can order it through online. The publisher in this book sells the e-book too. It makes you more easily to read this book, since you can read this book in your Touch screen phone. So there is no reason to you to past this reserve from your list.

Donna Cancel:

Exactly why? Because this Shadows of Forgotten Ancestors is an unordinary book that the inside of the e-book waiting for you to snap this but latter it will distress you with the secret this inside. Reading this book next to it was fantastic author who write the book in such awesome way makes the content on the inside easier to understand, entertaining means but still convey the meaning thoroughly. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this any longer or you going to regret it. This book will give you a lot of advantages than the other book get such as help improving your skill and your critical thinking approach. So , still want to hold up having that book? If I had been you I will go to the guide store hurriedly.

Blair Chappell:

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Michael Kenney:

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