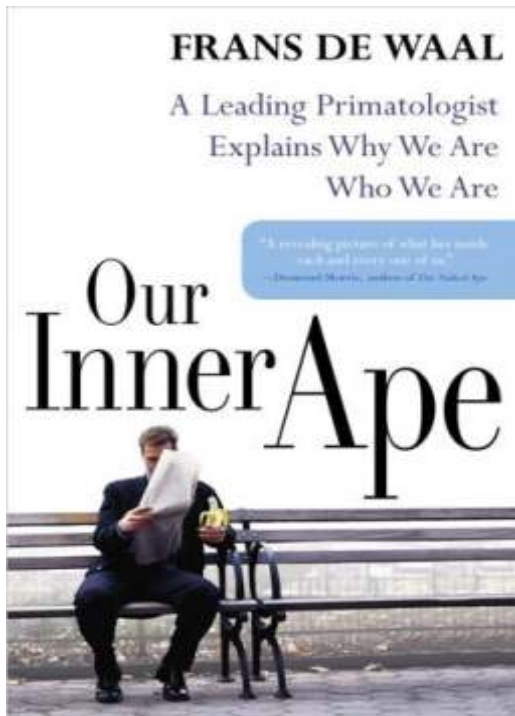


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Publishers Weekly ★ Starred Review
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Our Inner Ape

A Leading Primatologist Explains Why We Are Who We Are

Frans de Waal

It's no secret that humans and apes share a host of traits, from the tribal communities we form to our irrepressible curiosity. We have a common ancestor, scientists tell us, so it's natural that we act alike. But not all of these parallels are so appealing: the chimpanzee, for example, can be as vicious and manipulative as any human.

Yet there's more to our shared primate heritage than just our violent streak. In *Our Inner Ape*, Frans de Waal, one of the world's great primatologists and a renowned expert on social behavior in apes, presents the provocative idea that our noblest qualities—generosity, kindness, altruism—are as much a part of our nature as are our baser instincts. After all, we share them with another primate: the lesser-known bonobo. As genetically similar to man as the chimpanzee, the bonobo has a temperament and a lifestyle vastly different from those of its genetic cousin. Where chimps are aggressive, territorial, and hierarchical, bonobos are gentle, loving, and erotic (sex for bonobos is as much about pleasure and social bonding as it is about reproduction).

Frans de Waal has spent the last two decades studying our closest primate relations, and his observations of each species in *Our Inner Ape* encompass the spectrum of human behavior. This is an audacious book, an engrossing discourse that proposes thought-provoking and sometimes shocking connections among chimps, bonobos, and those most paradoxical of apes, human beings.

“De Waal offers vivid, often delightful stories of politics, sex, violence and kindness in the ape communities he has studied . . . Readers might be surprised at how much these apes and their stories resonate with their own lives...”

—**Publishers Weekly ★ Starred Review**

“Fascinating and enlightening: It's hard not to conclude that, in many ways, apes may be wiser than their upright relatives.”

—**Kirkus Reviews ★ Starred Review**

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Read by Alan Sklar

Category: Science

Running time: 9 hrs—Unabridged

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Frans de Waal, Ph.D., is a biologist and ethnologist, recognized worldwide for his work on the social intelligence of such primates as chimpanzees, bonobos, capuchins, and macaques. He is currently the C. H. Candler Professor in the Psychology Department of Emory University and director of the Living Links Center at the Yerkes Primate Center in Atlanta. De Waal is the author of five previous books, including *The Ape* and *the Sushi Master* and *Peacemaking Among Primates*, a winner of the *Los Angeles Times* Book Award.