

Almost Human The Astonishing Tale Of Homo Naledi And The Discovery That Changed Our Human Story in The Worst Way

[#Homo Naledi](#) [#human evolution](#) [#fossil discovery](#) [#paleoanthropology](#) [#ancient humans](#)

Delve into the astonishing tale of Homo Naledi, a groundbreaking fossil discovery that profoundly changed our understanding of human evolution. This pivotal find in paleoanthropology challenges previous narratives about ancient humans, offering new insights into our complex origins and rewriting chapters of our very own story in the most impactful way.

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Almost Human

This first-person narrative about an archaeological discovery is rewriting the story of human evolution. A story of defiance and determination by a controversial scientist, this is Lee Berger's own take on finding Homo naledi, an all-new species on the human family tree and one of the greatest discoveries of the 21st century. In 2013, Berger, a National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence, caught wind of a cache of bones in a hard-to-reach underground cave in South Africa. He put out a call around the world for petite collaborators—men and women small and adventurous enough to be able to squeeze through 8-inch tunnels to reach a sunless cave 40 feet underground. With this team of "underground astronauts," Berger made the discovery of a lifetime: hundreds of prehistoric bones, including entire skeletons of at least 15 individuals, all perhaps two million years old. Their features combined those of known prehomínids like Lucy, the famous Australopithecus, with those more human than anything ever before seen in prehistoric remains. Berger's team had discovered an all new species, and they called it Homo naledi. The cave quickly proved to be the richest prehomínid site ever discovered, full of implications that shake the very foundation of how we define what makes us human. Did this species come before, during, or after the emergence of Homo sapiens on our evolutionary tree? How did the cave come to contain nothing but the remains of these individuals? Did they bury their dead? If so, they must have had a level of self-knowledge, including an awareness of death. And yet those are the very characteristics used to define what makes us human. Did an equally advanced species inhabit Earth with us, or before us? Berger does not hesitate to address all these questions. Berger is a charming and controversial figure, and some colleagues question his interpretation of this and other finds. But in these pages, this charismatic and visionary paleontologist counters their arguments and tells his personal story: a rich and readable narrative about science, exploration, and what it means to be human.

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It was the find of a lifetime: The bones of multiple individuals, hidden deep underground in the region of South Africa called the Cradle of Humankind. Only the slimmest expedition members could squeeze through the jagged rock channels to reach the cave and its amazing treasures. In this freewheeling tale of science and exploration, celebrated paleoanthropologists Lee Berger and John Hawks tell the story of how Berger and his team discovered rich caches of fossils representing all-new species on the human family tree. How old are these bones? How did they get so deep underground? What do they tell us about our earliest ancestors? Berger's answers transform our sense of who we are and how we got here.

Almost Human

The personal story of a charismatic and visionary palaeontologist, a rich and readable narrative about science, exploration, and what it means to be human.

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he Astonishing Tale of Homo naledi and the Discovery That Changed Our Human Story By Lee Berger

He Astonishing Tale of Homo Naledi and the Discovery That Changed Our Human Story

"Alternately joyous and heartbreaking..." —Jane Goodall A moving and revealing biography of Norway's most famous chimpanzee. Julius is a national celebrity, the inspiration behind pop hits and bestselling books. He's also a chimpanzee, born in captivity, but raised in a zookeeper's home after his own mother rejects him. Julius's new parents change his diapers and comfort him when he has nightmares, and their daughters play with him. But soon they must reintroduce Julius to the zoo, a challenging task that brings new learnings on primate behavior and the dangers of animal celebrity. Alternately humorous and heartbreaking, Almost Human shows that primates are more like us than we once thought possible. It also charts the transformation of one zoo over time: from a small operation of animals behind bars to a fast-growing attraction coming to terms with twenty-first-century views on animal rights and welfare.

Almost Human

ALMOST HUMAN tells the remarkable story of Julius the chimpanzee, born in the Kristiansand Zoo in Norway, and rejected by his mother at just six weeks old. The zoo director and his family fostered Julius with the aim of returning him to his tribe, but Julius wasn't in any rush to reconnect and the tribe repeatedly snubbed him. Despite regular attempts to reintroduce Julius to zoo life, he often returned to his human home. Julius' story soon caught the imagination of the Norwegian people and he became the star of his own TV show - the nation following his story as he grew up. Finally, after twenty-five turbulent years that saw daring escape attempts, failed relationships, rejection and injury, Julius was settled into a different chimpanzee tribe. Today, at almost forty years old, he enjoys life as a contented alpha chimpanzee with two of his own offspring. ALMOST HUMAN explores more than this unique chimpanzee's life - it examines how our treatment of animals in captivity has changed over the decades, how the mind of a chimpanzee works, and how much we have in common with the primates who share 98.6% of our DNA. This powerful story shows how Julius was faced with the very same challenges we humans experience - the need for food and safety, the desire for love and sex, how to negotiate status and power, and finding ways to deal with loneliness, sorrow and death. It reminds us that what we all require is very simple: a loving family and a place to call home.

Almost Human

In the most revolutionary archaeological find of the new century, an international team of archaeologists led by Mike Morwood discovered a new, diminutive species of human on the remote Indonesian island of Flores. Nicknamed the "Hobbit," this was no creation of Tolkien's fantasy. The three foot tall skeleton with a brain the size of a chimpanzee's was a tool-using, fire-making, cooperatively hunting person who inhabited Flores alongside modern humans as recently as 13,000 years ago. This book is Morwood's description of this monumental discovery and the intense study that has been undertaken to validate his view of its relationship to our species. He chronicles the bitter debates over *Homo Floresiensis*, the objections (some spiteful) of colleagues, the theft and damage of some of the specimens, and the endless battle against government and academic bureaucracies that hindered his research. This updated paperback edition contains an epilogue that reports on the most recent debates, findings, and analyses of this amazing discovery.

A New Human

What makes us human, and where did we come from? How did a clever ape climb down from the trees and change the world like no other animal has done before? This large-format, highly illustrated book guides readers through the key aspects of the human story, from the anatomical changes that allowed us to walk upright and increased brain size in our ancestors, to the social, cultural, and economic developments of our more recent cousins and our own species. Along the way, focus spreads take a closer look at some of the key species in our history, from the ancient *Australopithecus Afarensis*, 'Lucy', to our recent cousins the Neanderthals and ourselves, *Homo sapiens*. Looking beyond the anatomical evolution of humans, this book explores how our culture and way of living has evolved, from how trails of cowry shells reveal early trade between tribes, to how and why humans first domesticated dogs, horses, and farm animals, and began settling in permanent villages and cities. Through digestible information and absorbing illustration, young readers will be given an insight into their own origins, and what it really means to be a human.

When We Became Humans

Humans are primates, and our closest relatives are the other African apes - chimpanzees closest of all. With the mapping of the human genome, and that of the chimp, a direct comparison of the differences between the two, letter by letter along the billions of As, Gs, Cs, and Ts of the DNA code, has led to the widely vaunted claim that we differ from chimps by a mere 1.6% of our genetic code. A mere hair's breadth genetically! To a rather older tradition of anthropomorphizing chimps, trying to get them to speak, dressing them up for 'tea parties', was added the stamp of genetic confirmation. It also began an international race to find that handful of genes that make up the difference - the genes that make us uniquely human. But what does that 1.6% really mean? And should it really lead us to consider extending limited human rights to chimps, as some have suggested? Are we, after all, just chimps with a few genetic tweaks? Is our language and our technology just an extension of the grunts and ant-collecting sticks of chimps? In this book, Jeremy Taylor sketches the picture that is emerging from cutting edge research in genetics, animal behaviour, and other fields. The indications are that the so-called 1.6% is much larger and leads to profound differences between the two species. We shared a common ancestor with chimps some 6-7 million years ago, but we humans have been racing away ever since. One in ten of our genes, says Taylor, has undergone evolution in the past 40,000 years! Some of the changes that happened since we split from chimpanzees are to genes that control the way whole orchestras of other genes are switched on and off, and where. Taylor shows, using studies of certain genes now associated with speech and with brain development and activity, that the story looks to be much more complicated than we first thought. This rapidly changing and exciting field has recently discovered a host of genetic mechanisms that make us different from other apes. As Taylor points out, for too long we have let our sentimentality for chimps get in the way of our understanding. Chimps use tools, but so do crows. Certainly chimps are our closest genetic relatives. But relatively small differences in genetic code can lead to profound differences in cognition and behaviour. Our abilities give us the responsibility to protect and preserve the natural world, including endangered primates. But for the purposes of human society and human concepts such as rights, let's not pretend that chimps are humans uneducated and undressed. We've changed a lot in those 12 million years.

Not a Chimp

"In the same way that Jane Goodall's pioneering study of chimpanzees revealed their likeness to humans, Strum's work shows how, contrary to the popular image and the scientific evidence of the time, the more distantly related baboons are just as socially savvy.

Almost Human

HOMO BRITANNICUS tells the epic history of life in Britain, from man's very first footsteps to the present day. Drawing on all the latest evidence and techniques of investigation, Chris Stringer describes times when Britain was so tropical that man lived alongside hippos and sabre tooth tiger, times so cold we shared this land with reindeer and mammoth, and times colder still when we were forced to flee altogether. This is the first time we have known the full extent of this history: the Ancient Human Occupation of Britain project, led by Chris, has made discoveries that have stunned the world, pushing back the earliest date of arrival to 700,000 years ago. Our ancestors have been fighting a dramatic battle for survival here ever since.

Homo Britannicus

Almost Human is a thriller where creatures with the enormous strength and power of a chimpanzee and the intelligence and size of a human are sought out and discovered in a remote compound in equatorial Africa. The special bond between trainers and their animals is central to the story. Drs. Ken Turner and Fred Savage follow rumors of chimp-human hybrids. The scientists want to study the hybrids but government operatives want to exploit them. The resulting conflicts threaten Turner and Savage's research and their lives, as well as the lives of many others. Can they stop the murderous onslaught in time?

Almost Human

HOMO: A Brief History of Consciousness is Abhijit Naskar's yet another scientific work of adventure. In this book he turns the clock back millions of years for the readers to witness the evolution of the most mysterious living mechanism on planet earth - The Human Consciousness. Here he takes a broader approach of scientific investigation and dives deep into the abyss of history to reveal the exhilarating scientific truths behind apparently ancient questions like: How and when did humans start to become truly humans? What exactly triggered the mysterious development of Human Consciousness? How did the humans turn out to be the smartest species on this planet? This is a page-turning adventure story that stunningly enables even the most non-technical reader to think like a brain scientist.

Almost Human

"This story has been pieced together from a myriad of fossil finds, prehistoric cave paintings, discarded stone tools, and traces of ancient genetic material. In this account, Robin McKie, Science Editor of The Observer, unravels the saga of how these discoveries form a picture of our ancestors' lives. It is a scientific detective story full of paleontologist-detectives whose intellect and foibles add to the adventure. The story arrives at a revelation of how our world became dominated by a single primate species: Homo sapiens."--BOOK JACKET.Title Summary field provided by Blackwell North America, Inc. All Rights Reserved

Homo

A remarkable investigation into the hominoids of Flores Island, their place on the evolutionary spectrum—and whether or not they still survive. While doing fieldwork on the remote Indonesian island of Flores, anthropologist Gregory Forth came across people talking about half-apelike, half-humanlike creatures that once lived in a cave on the slopes of a nearby volcano. Over the years he continued to record what locals had to say about these mystery hominoids while searching for ways to explain them as imaginary symbols of the wild or other cultural representations. Then along came the 'hobbit'. In 2003, several skeletons of a small-statured early human species alongside stone tools and animal remains were excavated in a cave in western Flores. Named Homo floresiensis, this ancient hominin was initially believed to have lived until as recently as 12,000 years ago—possibly overlapping with the appearance of Homo sapiens on Flores. In view of this timing and the striking resemblance of floresiensis to the mystery creatures described by the islanders, Forth began to think about the creatures as possibly reflecting a real species, either now extinct but retained in 'cultural memory' or even still surviving. He began to investigate reports from the Lio region of the island where locals

described 'ape-men' as still living. Dozens claimed to have even seen them. In *Between Ape and Human*, we follow Forth on the trail of this mystery hominoid, and the space they occupy in islanders' culture as both natural creatures and as supernatural beings. In a narrative filled with adventure, Lio culture and language, zoology and natural history, Forth comes to a startling and controversial conclusion. Unique, important, and thought-provoking, this book will appeal to anyone interested in human evolution, the survival of species (including our own) and how humans might relate to 'not-quite-human' animals. *Between Ape and Human* is essential reading for all those interested in cryptozoology, and it is the only firsthand investigation by a leading anthropologist into the possible survival of a primitive species of human into recent times—and its coexistence with modern humans.

Dawn of Man

The captivating story of how a band of scientists has redrawn the genetic and behavioral lines that separate humans from our nearest cousins. In the fall of 2005, a band of researchers cracked the code of the chimpanzee genome and provided a startling new window into the differences between humans and our closest primate cousins. For the past several years, acclaimed Science reporter Jon Cohen has been following the DNA hunt, as well as eye-opening new studies in ape communication, human evolution, disease, diet, and more. In *Almost Chimpanzee*, Cohen invites us on a captivating scientific journey, taking us behind the scenes in cutting-edge genetics labs, rain forests in Uganda, sanctuaries in Iowa, experimental enclaves in Japan, even the Detroit Zoo. Along the way, he ferries fresh chimp sperm for a time-sensitive analysis, gets greeted by pant-hoots and chimp feces, and investigates an audacious attempt to breed a humanzee. Cohen offers a fresh and often frankly humorous insider's tour of the latest research, which promises to lead to everything from insights about the unique ways our bodies work to shedding light on stubborn human-only problems, ranging from infertility and asthma to speech disorders. And in the end, Cohen explains why it's time to move on from Jane Goodall's plea that we focus on how the two species are alike and turns to examining why our differences matter in vital ways—for understanding humans and for increasing the chances to save the endangered chimpanzee.

Between Ape and Human

An account of a discovery that generates new insights into human origins.

Almost Chimpanzee

Homo dominus redefines what it means to be human. Starting with the component pieces of human uniqueness—cognition, self-awareness, language, technology, aggression, altruism, culture, the arts, and spirituality—it rebuilds the human species using a new conceptual blueprint. Sure to spark debate, *Homo dominus* offers a new vision of who we are and how we got here. Author Stephen Dennis draws from neuroscience, paleontology, psychology, and sociobiology to show that the impetus of human evolution is our propensity to control events and their consequences. This means simply that our root operating system is built on actions taken to bring perceptions into line with expectations. A pivotal genetic shift driven by ecological instability in the late Miocene era triggered this evolutionary divergence and propelled us out of apedom. From our hardscrabble origins on the forest margins to our current position of global dominance, *Homo dominus* recasts traditional human evolutionary theory in terms of basic control theory. It is a powerful organizing principle that puts our past in a new context and projects our future in a new light.

Lucy's Child

Our Human Story is a guide to our fossil relatives, from what may be the earliest hominins such as *Sahelanthropus*, dating back six to seven million years, through to our own species, *Homo sapiens*.

Homo Dominus

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER Now Elizabeth Hess's unforgettable biography is the inspiration for *Project Nim*, a riveting new documentary directed by James Marsh and produced by Simon Chinn, the Oscar-winning team known for *Man on Wire*. Hess, a consultant on the film, says, "Getting a call from James Marsh and Simon Chinn is an author's dream. *Project Nim* is nothing short of amazing." Could an adorable chimpanzee raised from infancy by a human family bridge the gap between species—and change the way we think about the boundaries between the animal and human worlds? Here is the strange and moving account of an experiment intended to answer just those questions, and the

astonishing biography of the chimp who was chosen to see it through. Dubbed Project Nim, the experiment was the brainchild of Herbert S. Terrace, a psychologist at Columbia University. His goal was to teach a chimpanzee American Sign Language in order to refute Noam Chomsky's assertion that language is an exclusively human trait. Nim Chimpsky, the baby chimp at the center of this ambitious, potentially groundbreaking study, was "adopted" by one of Dr. Terrace's graduate students and brought home to live with her and her large family in their elegant brownstone on the Upper West Side of Manhattan. At first Nim's progress in learning ASL and adapting to his new environment exceeded all expectations. His charm, mischievous sense of humor, and keen, sometimes shrewdly manipulative understanding of human nature endeared him to everyone he met, and even led to guest appearances on Sesame Street, where he was meant to model good behavior for toddlers. But no one had thought through the long-term consequences of raising a chimp in the human world, and when funding for the study ran out, Nim's problems began. Over the next two decades, exiled from the people he loved, Nim was rotated in and out of various facilities. It would be a long time before this chimp who had been brought up to identify with his human caretakers had another opportunity to blow out the candles on a cake celebrating his birthday. No matter where he was sent, however, Nim's hard-earned ability to converse with humans would prove to be his salvation, protecting him from the fate of many of his peers. Drawing on interviews with the people who lived with Nim, diapered him, dressed him, taught him, and loved him, Elizabeth Hess weaves an unforgettable tale of an extraordinary and charismatic creature. His story will move and entertain at the same time that it challenges us to ask what it means to be human, and what we owe to the animals who so enrich our lives.

Our Human Story

To most 19th-century scholars, the Neandertals' fierce, ridged brows were evidence of a "moral darkness" that set them apart from humans. Yet by the 1970s, the Neandertals were being praised for their apparent compassion. This work reveals how different scientists came to such wildly divergent conclusions. Photos and illustrations.

Nim Chimpsky

Each successive generation of mankind since archaic times has been shown to exhibit significant difference in aesthetics, social behavior and physiological make up. These changes are evolutionary. This book is therefore a study of humans since archaic times and the changes that have since occurred in man. It seeks to convince the world that from apelike, *Homo habilis*, *Homo erectus*, and then *Homo sapiens*, we are now *Homo x*. By exploiting Charles Darwin's organic theory of evolution and recorded historical developments (social, cultural, and biological) to date, the research has proved that your child or the youth around you is most likely a higher evolved human species, or different from you. He or she is *Homo x*. The book highlights historical, climatic, technological, and cultural adaptation by *Homo sapiens* since the exit of *Homo erectus*, which has catapulted evolutionary transformation of man within the shortest period making *Homo sapiens* the fastest of the hominids in the evolution succession to have undergone complete evolution by explaining the differences in lifespan experience of each hominid. It is therefore intended to help transform our policy and legislative and cultural perspectives on nurturing our children with clear knowledge that they are indeed different from us!

The Neandertals

Explores the story of our evolution, and of the people who have devoted their lives to discovering the truth about our origins.

Homo Sapiens to Homo 'X'

To most 19th-century scholars, the Neandertals' fierce, ridged brows were evidence of a "moral darkness" that set them apart from humans. Yet by the 1970s, the Neandertals were being praised for their apparent compassion. This work reveals how different scientists came to such wildly divergent conclusions. Photos and illustrations.

Ape Man

In the first part of this book I discussed how the human brain developed due to the development of language; In the second and third part, I analyzed all aspects which are mentioned below. - prehistoric humans lived in a terrestrial atmosphere where C14 isotope concentration was intermittently

higher than usual because a chain of geomagnetic events occurred in this epoch; - the C14 isotopes were incorporated into plants, and transmitted by ingestion to animals in the form of C14-Glucose; - biological processes involving C14-Glucose in humans conducted to a reduction of organic production of nitric oxide; - a lesser apport of nitric oxide favored a healthier cellular development that decreased the sensitivity to viruses and pathogens; this aspect helped humans to migrate and better adapt to new environments; - but for the most of it, the decline of nitric oxide led to significant increases in neurogenesis that stimulated the brain plasticity, but also, it favored a chain of biological changes in the human brain; - all these changes together made the human brain to develop a language; - the language development introduced the features of assembling and disassembling; these features are those implied in producing every technology we ever imagined; - the unique mechanism involved by language delivered the imagination on which is based our civilization.

The Neandertals

The Reinvention of Humanity tells the story of a small circle of renegade scientist-explorers who changed something profound- what it means to be normal. In the early twentieth century, these pioneering anthropologists, many of them women, made intrepid journeys that overturned our assumptions about race, sexuality, gender and the nature of human diversity, paving the way for the civil rights movements that followed and sparking a debate that continues to this day. From the Arctic to the South Pacific, from Haiti to Japan, they immersed themselves in distant or isolated communities, where they observed and documented radically different approaches to love and child-rearing, family structure and the relationship between women and men. With this evidence they were able to challenge the era's scientific consensus - and deep-rooted Western belief - that intelligence, ability and character are determined by a person's race or sex. In the end, they showed how the roles we play are shaped not by these crude 'biological' categories but according to the immense variety of human cultures. Theirs were boundary-breaking lives, filled with scandal, romance, rivalry and tragedy. Those of Margaret Mead and her essential partner Ruth Benedict resulted in fame and notoriety. Those of Native American activist Ella Deloria and the African-American writer and ethnographer Zora Neale Hurston ended in poverty and obscurity; here their achievements are brought fully into the light for the first time. All were outsiders, including the controversial founder of their field, the wild-haired professor, German immigrant and revolutionary thinker, Franz Boas. The Reinvention of Humanity takes us on their globe-spanning adventures and shows how, together, these courageous and unconventional people created the moral universe we inhabit today.

The Story of Homo Loquens

From the Pulitzer Prize winning author of Guns, Germs and Steel More than 98 % of human genes are shared with two species of chimpanzee. The 'third' chimpanzee is man. Jared Diamond surveys our life-cycle, culture, sexuality and destructive urges both towards ourselves and the planet to explore the ways in which we are uniquely human yet still influenced by our animal origins.

The Reinvention of Humanity: a Story of Race, Sex, Gender and the Discovery of Culture

The remarkable story of a "talking" chimp, a leading scientist, and the profound insights they have uncovered about our species He has been featured in cover stories in Time, Newsweek, and National Geographic, and has been the subject of a "NOVA" documentary. He is directly responsible for discoveries that have forced the scientific community to recast its thinking about the nature of the mind and the origins of language. He is Kanzi, an extraordinary bonobo chimpanzee who has overturned the idea that symbolic language is unique to our species. This is the moving story of how Kanzi learned to converse with humans and the profound lessons he has taught us about our animal cousins, and ourselves. ". . . The underlying thesis is informative and well argued . . . Savage-Rumbaugh's results are impressive." — The Washington Post "This popular, absorbing, and controversial account is recommended." — Library Journal

The Rise And Fall Of The Third Chimpanzee

The fascinating evolutionary links between six seemingly unremarkable traits that make us the very remarkable creatures we are. Countless behaviors separate us from the rest of the animal kingdom, but all of them can be traced one way or another to six traits that are unique to the human race-our big toe, our opposable thumb, our oddly shaped pharynx, and our ability to laugh, kiss, and cry. At first glance these may not seem to be connected but they are. Each marks a fork in the evolutionary road where

we went one way and the rest of the animal kingdom went another. Each opens small passageways on the peculiar geography of the human heart and mind. Walter weaves together fascinating insights from complexity theory, the latest brain scanning techniques, anthropology, artificial intelligence, cognitive psychology, and robotics to explore how the smallest of changes over the past six million years - all shaped by the forces of evolution -- have enabled a primate once on the brink of extinction to evolve into a creature that would one day create all of the grand and exuberant edifices of human culture. As the story of each trait unfolds, Walter explains why our brains grew so large and complex, why we find one another sexually attractive, how toolmaking laid the mental groundwork for language, why we care about what others think, and how we became the creature that laughs and cries and falls in love. *Thumbs, Toes and Tears* is original, informative, and delightfully thought-provoking.

Almost Human

But they all provide information on the diet, diseases, hunting techniques, and art of *Australopithecus*, *Homo habilis*, *Homo erectus*, the Neanderthal, and the first *Homo sapiens sapiens*.

Kanzi

Follows scientists in the field and chronicles debates behind the scenes in the study of human fossils.

The Story of Homo Loquens

This work has become a benchmark of popular anthropology and psychology. Zoologist Desmond Morris considers humans as being simply another animal species in this classic book first published in 1967. Here is the Naked Ape at his most primal in love, at work, at war. Meet man as he really is: relative to the apes, stripped of his veneer as we see him courting, making love, sleeping, socializing, grooming, playing. The Naked Ape takes its place alongside Darwin's *Origin of the Species*, presenting man not as a fallen angel, but as a risen ape, remarkable in his resilience, energy and imagination, yet an animal nonetheless, in danger of forgetting his origins. With its penetrating insights on man's beginnings, sex life, habits and our astonishing bonds to the animal kingdom, *The Naked Ape* is a landmark, at once provocative, compelling and timeless.

Thumbs, Toes, and Tears

Reassesses human prehistory, incorporating ideas from philosophy, anthropology, molecular biology, and linguistics to explore how humans acquired the qualities of consciousness and humanity.

The Extraordinary Story of Human Origins

Nova and National Geographic present exclusive access to an astounding discovery of ancient fossil human ancestors. Deep in a South African cave, a special team of experts has brought to light an unprecedented wealth of fossils belonging to a crucial gap in the record of our origins that spans the transition between the ape-like australopithecines (such as the famous Lucy) and the earliest members of the human family. The film describes the 2013 discovery, and later excavation, of the fossil remains of *Homo naledi*, an extinct species of hominin assigned to the genus *Homo*, found within the Dinaledi Chamber of the Rising Star Cave system, located in the Cradle of Humankind, South Africa.

The Hominid Gang

Popular and scientific literature is still permeated with male aggression as a product of long evolution. The fact that violent aggression appears in the archeological records less than half as long ago as artistic expression should give pause to any student of human behavior. Humans are nothing like apes--chimpanzees, bonobos, gorillas, or orangutans which developed their mating systems independently from humans, and from each other. Chimpanzees have a promiscuous mating system, bonobos are completely hedonistic, gorillas have a harem system, and orangutans are essentially solitary. In those species, males may compete with each other, so aggression can occur. Gibbons would be a better model for human behavior because they live in nuclear families (several ages of dependant offspring living with adults for many years) and are never aggressive toward each other. Nuclear families are intimately tied to peaceful living because, once established, there is no need for aggression, except for defence of territory against outsiders. Although male aggression is a sad fact of modern society, factors other than genetic heritage should be examined to explain this. This book reviews the recent advances in the knowledge of human evolution that have greatly changed our conceptions. It has been

uncovered that humans are nothing like chimpanzees, and far less like baboons. Early humans never knuckle-walked, left the jungle for the savannah where they roamed widely in dispersed populations, and for more than four million years lived in small groups or relatively peaceable societies with fathers raising children and joining with other adult males for community projects. Human Evolution and Male Aggression dispels misconceptions based on flawed interpretations of biology and behavior. It tells the compelling story of the human male's peaceful past. It summarizes recent advances in understanding of bones, brains, hormones, and genetics that reveals humans for who they are. In reviewing the behavior of other primate males and their relationship to females and infants, it sets the stage for a new paradigm of male behaviour--one in which aggression, though possible, is suppressed most of the time in favor of affiliative behaviors that benefit females, infants, and society as a whole. Encompassing topics relevant to biological and social sciences, this book will be of interest to students of primatology, evolutionary biology, anthropology, and human behaviour.

The Naked Ape

Origins Reconsidered