

ULLA TUOMAINEN

Sexual Nature

Mate Choice, Sex and Family Life in the Animal Kingdom



About the author

Ulla Tuomainen, PhD, is a biologist specialised in ecology and evolutionary biology. She works as a research coordinator at the University of Helsinki.

In the animal mating market, feathers flutter, fins flap and horns clatter. Nests are decorated, gifts are presented and unions are made and renounced. When the perpetuation of one's species is at stake, the methods are multifarious and incredibly diverse.

Sexual Nature delves into the evolution of reproductive cells, sex, mate choice and family life. Why do fruit flies have enormous spermatozoa and what is the purpose of the mallard's corkscrew penis? Why do flatworms fight over which mating partner is allowed to be male? How common is monogamy among animals and what are the lengths to which parents will go to protect their young?

This book describes animal reproduction in layman's terms and with a degree of humour. Having read it, you might observe your backyard robin, the stickleback at the seashore or barnacles on the bottom of a rowboat with new eyes – and a slight blush.

Gaudeamus 2022

Original title: *Eläimellistä parinvalintaa. Seksi ja perhe-elämä eläinten maailmassa*
325 pages, hardbound, ISBN 978-952-345-173-5

Foreign rights contact: Leena Kaakinen, publishing director
(leena.kaakinen@gaudeamus.fi, +35850 540 1303)