



Sex Signals: The Biology of Love

By Timothy Perper

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Sex Signals: The Biology of Love offers new insights about why people behave the way they do when they meet, flirt, touch, and fall in love. Dr. Perper's ideas are based on more than 900 hours of scientific observations made wherever men and women meet -- in singles bars, restaurants, parties, train stations. He concludes that intimacy develops not through magic or "good vibes" but through a clearly defined courtship sequence that involves the two people in a mutual, escalating, and interlocking series of stages: from the approach, through talking, turning to face each other, touching, and synchronizing movements. Dr. Perper sees love and intimacy as part of a tapestry that weaves together strands from culture, history, psychology, and biology. Sex Signals will interest general readers as well as biologists, social scientists, and students of human behavior and sexuality.

Chapter 1: That Ole Black Magic: The Lover's Eyes/The Scientist's Eyes/An Infinite Regress/Fidelity of Transmission/Variation Within Limits/Deus Ex Machina/The Biosocial Approach/An Example -- Templates/Why Biology? (sets the stage for an analysis of courtship from the perspective of both biology and social science)

Chapter 2: Nature and Nurture: Ethnobiology/Ethnobiology: Nature as Divine (what biology is and what it is not)

Chapter 3: The Biosocial Approach: Structure and Function/Biosocial Functionality/The Biological Capacity for Behavioral Variation/Biology and Courtship (how biology and culture interact and interpenetrate)

Chapter 4: The Course of True Love: The Courtship Sequence: The Core Sequence/Escalation and Response/Some Implications, Practical and Otherwise/Theory and Practice for Lovers and Scientists/Feedback and the Stability of Courtship (the "body language" and behavior of two people when they first meet and begin to feel attracted to each other)

Chapter 5: Proceptivity: Sexual Repression/An Ethnographic Short Circuit/Proceptive Women and Responsive Men/As the Kid Goes for Broke: The Proceptive Tradition (how women take the initiative in courtship)

Chapter 6: Three Faces of Reluctance: The Rules for Smart and Proper Sex/Outright Rejections, Heroic Deeds, and Good Opinions/U.S. and Canadian Women Writing About How to Reject Men/The Tradition of Giving the Man a

Chance/Finding a Good Man/Envoi/Biology Once Again and a Transition (how women reject men and postpone sexual involvement)

Chapter 7: Men: Love Hatred and Poetry: Partisanship/Men Talking and Writing About Seduction/Rape: A Biosocial Pathology of Courtship/Men and Courtship/Poetry (how men talk about women and courtship)

Chapter 8: The Sacred: An Ethnographic Short Circuit -- and a Caution/Durkheim and the Concepts of the Sacred and the Profane/On the Threshold/Pure and Impure/The Rhythm of Life (how and why sexuality and marriage are deemed "sacred" in social rules and customs)

Chapter 9: Unraveling: The Biosocial Function of the Sacred/Biosocial Reality/The Social Sciences as Mythology/The Social and Biological Sciences in Crisis/Reweaving (the scientific revolution, the sexual revolution, and the future)

Appendix: The Art and Science of People Watching: Observations in the Neoclassical and Realist Modes: Visions in the Expert Mode/A Multiplicity of Visions/Visions in a Confused Mode/Visions in the Neoclassical Mode/Neoclassicism and Social Science/Visions in a Realist Mode/Reality is Observable/Interviewing in the Realist Mode/The Real World in Focus (how to observe, and how NOT to observe, courtship behavior in public)

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Sex Signals: The Biology of Love By Timothy Perper Bibliography

- Rank: #1357904 in Books
- Published on: 1985-09-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Binding: Paperback
- 323 pages

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

This book is basically a study of courtship. Perper, a biologist, reports the results of his analysis of interviews with men and women and observations of couples in bars. He attempts to show that there is a biological basis to the way that women and men meet and fall in love. Although Perper indicates that the book is intended for an audience "including laypeople unfamiliar with biology," the book's scholarly citations, length, and theoretical analysis suggest it will appeal to the more serious reader. This book is more substantial but less lucid than Heather Trexler Remoff's *Sexual Choice* (LJ 1/85). It should be a useful addition to academic and large public library collections. Joseph Hannibal, Cleveland Museum of Natural History
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Copyright 1986 Reed Business Information, Inc. --Library Journal

Sex Signals is an entertaining book which addresses the relationships between attraction, flirtation, intimacy, courtship, sex, love, and biology.... Overall, *Sex Signals* is a highly informative and interesting book.... My final impression was that the book's descriptions of singles' bar behavior and "magic moments" in courtship could be quite useful to diverse groups of authors, researchers, and screenplay writers --*Journal of Sex Education and Therapy*, Spring/Summer 1986

A highly readable, well-researched book on human courtship and marriage, interpreted in a conceptual framework the author refers to as "biosocial functionality".... Perper's empirical research was largely conducted in singles bars, and was quite sophisticated. It led him to claim that a "mating dance" of nonverbal and verbal actions containing distinct, predictable steps occurs when a man and woman first meet and then progress to romantic involvement --*Choice*, Feb. 1986

From the Back Cover

Here's what they're saying about Dr. Perper's remarkable study of sexual attraction! From *Glamour*: "According to Timothy Perper, PhD., a Philadelphia biologist who charted the behavior of five-hundred couples in bars in the Northeast...'Women are exquisitely familiar with what occurs during flirtations while men are generally ignorant...Women who want to make successful contact shouldn't be afraid to take the initiative.'" From *Vogue*: "Perper is writing a book about his findings. He says he thinks everyone should be 'comfortable with their biology,' and hope he helps people take it easy when they flirt." From *The Philadelphia Inquirer*: "Perper said he found bars to be the ideal location for studying the human animal...Using observational techniques honed in the 1970's when he studied the copulatory behavior of rats, Perper has learned to isolate and document each step in the sequence of flirtation behavior."

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Sonja Johnson:

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Laura Mason:

The e-book untitled Sex Signals: The Biology of Love is the guide that recommended to you to see. You can see the quality of the book content that will be shown to you actually. The language that article author use to explained their way of doing something is easily to understand. The writer was did a lot of exploration when write the book, to ensure the information that they share to you personally is absolutely accurate. You also could possibly get the e-book of Sex Signals: The Biology of Love from the publisher to make you more enjoy free time.

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