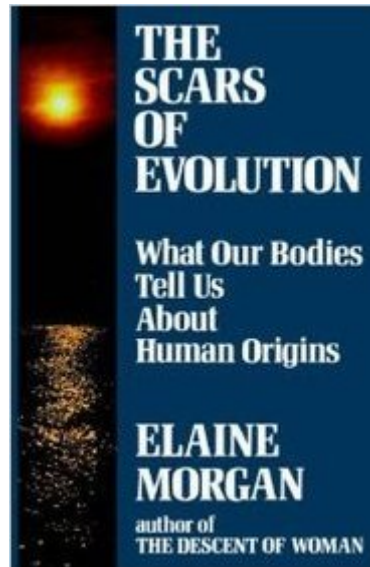


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The Scars Of Evolution



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Customer Reviews

I think Elaine Morgan has got it right! River Forest Press, in Bainbridge Island, Washington, recently sent me a review copy of the book, "The Passionate Ape," by Craig Hagstrom... In it, he gave a favorable mention to Elaine Morgan's books, "The Aquatic Ape," and "The Descent of Woman." I ordered both from .com, but also ordered "The Scars of Evolution" since it was most readily available. The reason for my interest was that she apparently advocates the Aquatic Ape Theory (AAT) which I have thought to be the only reasonable theory that adequately explains our relatively hairless bodies, bipedal stance, subcutaneous layer of fat and several other characteristics, since first I heard of it in a very brief mention in Desmond Morris's book, "The Naked Ape," many years ago. When Morris said, and apparently believed, that our early ancestors dropped from the trees of their receding arboreal African habitat and hit the savannah running, shedding their fur as they ran to cool off, I thought the idea ludicrous. If that were so, why would they keep their layer of subcutaneous fat, the only purpose of which is warmth? And, if speed were their goal, why go bipedal. The fastest animals on earth are quadrupeds, and are covered with fur. Compared to quadrupeds, bipeds are slow and clumsy. This book is the exposition of the aquatic ape theory for which I have been looking ever since. It is a masterful illumination of the theory, addressing elements that I had not even considered. Morgan, whose educational background and formal training in anthropology are not mentioned in the book, sad to say, is quite obviously highly qualified to comment.

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