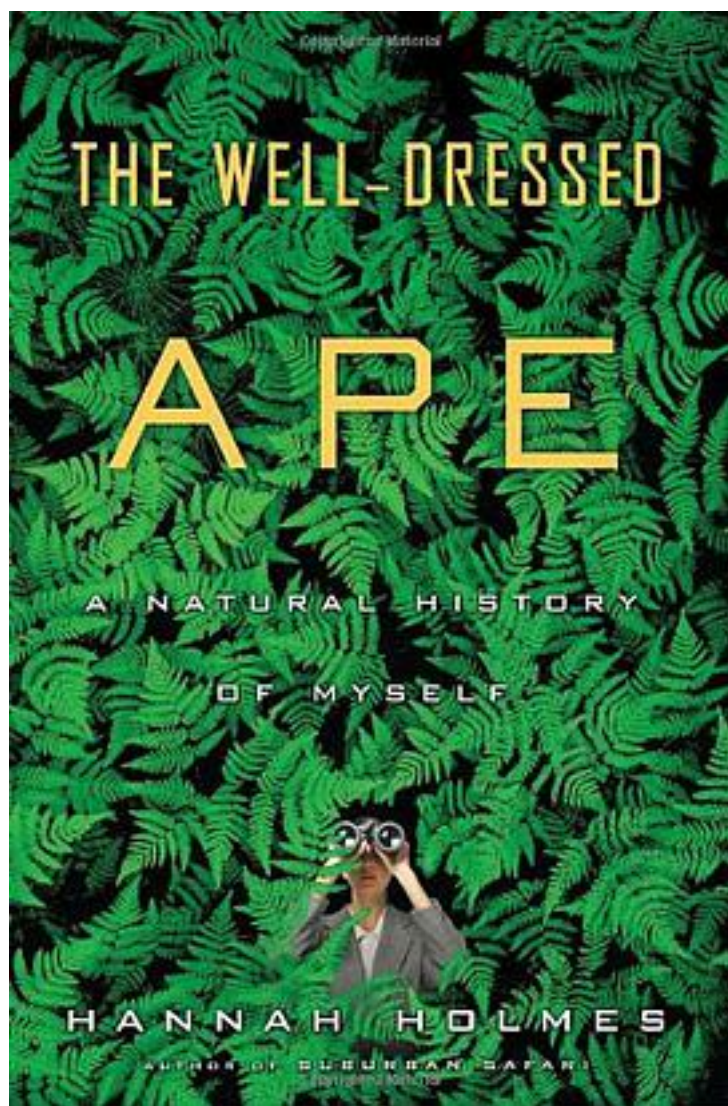


The Well-Dressed Ape



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著者:Hannah Holmes

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From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. Holmes (Suburban Safari) has been uncomfortable with the notion that I was an animal apart, a sort of extraterrestrial on my own planet. Hence, she examines her animal self, hoping to clarify my identity in the natural world. As in her previous works, she uses the mundane to make larger points about life and the human condition. Beginning each chapter in a scientific mode, she then glides into more personal reflections (I'm most aware of my brain when I encounter its limitations) and then compares humans with other animals: My wad of wiring is so hot and bothered that it puts all the world's other brains to shame. Or does it? Holmes thus continually underscores that humans are not nearly as different as many would have us believe. For example, a surprising number of species communicate fairly well, and prairie dogs actually have a sizable vocabulary. Holmes's optimistic conclusion is that we are the only species capable of thinking about the effect of our actions and acting against narrow self-interest, even if we don't always do so. Holmes makes the scientific personal in prose that is juicy and humorous, if occasionally a bit too cute. (Jan. 20)

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Hannah Holmes (born 1963) is an American writer, journalist, essayist, and science commentator for Science Live (Discovery Channel) and radio shows such as Maine Things Considered. She has published four books, most recently Quirk: Brain Science Makes Sense of Your Peculiar Personality (Random House, 2011). She has published articles online and in magazines including Sierra, New York Times Magazine, L.A. Times Magazine, Outside, Islands, and Escape. She earned a B.A. from University of Southern Maine in 1988, and lives with her husband in Portland, Maine.

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评论

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书评

在工作之余能够怀着极大的热情读完这本书，于我是满怀感激的。从自然选择的意义上出发，也许任何哲学的思辨都过于高维度，而显得空旷不当。但倘或世界并非建立在适者生存的根基上，是不是这一切也就无意义了？我借机重新审视自己的生物性，把自己当作一个竞争的捕食者，这番不...

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