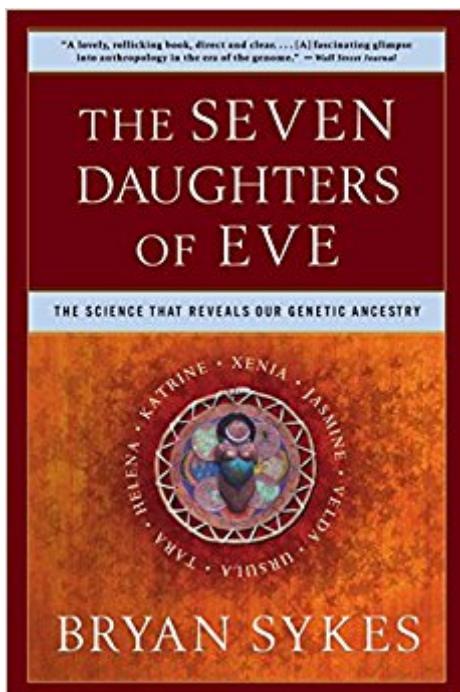


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The Seven Daughters Of Eve: The Science That Reveals Our Genetic Ancestry



Synopsis

The national bestseller that reveals how we are descended from seven prehistoric women. In 1994 Bryan Sykes was called in as an expert to examine the frozen remains of a man trapped in glacial ice in northern Italy for over 5000 years—the Ice Man. Sykes succeeded in extracting DNA from the Ice Man, but even more important, writes *Science News*, was his "ability to directly link that DNA to Europeans living today." In this groundbreaking book, Sykes reveals how the identification of a particular strand of DNA that passes unbroken through the maternal line allows scientists to trace our genetic makeup all the way back to prehistoric times—to seven primeval women, the "seven daughters of Eve." illustrated and includes a map

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"A traveler from an antique land... lives within us all," claims Sykes, a professor of genetics at Oxford. This unique traveler is mitochondrial DNA, and, as this provocative account illustrates, it can help scientists and archeologists piece together the history of the human race. Mitochondrial DNA is present in every cell in the body, and it remains virtually unchanged (aside from random mutations) as it passes from mother to daughter. By quantifying and analyzing the mutations of this relatively stable circle of DNA, Sykes has solved some of the hottest debates about human origins. For example, he clarified a long-running debate among anthropologists over the original inhabitants of the Cook Islands. After retrieving mitochondrial DNA samples from the island natives, Sykes concluded that the natives emigrated from Asia, not America, as many Western anthropologists had contended. In a similar manner, Sykes analyzed samples from native Europeans to determine that

modern humans are not at all related to Neanderthals. The book's most complex and controversial find that the ancient European hunter-gatherers predominated over the farmers and not vice versa leads Sykes to another stunning conclusion: by chance, nearly all modern Europeans are descendants of one of seven "clan mothers" who lived at different times during the Ice Age. Drawing upon archeological and climatic records, Sykes spins seven informative and gracefully imagined tales of how these "daughters of Eve" eked out a living on the frozen plains. (July 9) Forecast: Sykes is a bit of a celebrity geneticist, as he was involved in identifying the remains of the last Romanovs. This fame, plus his startling conclusions augmented by a five-city tour should generate publicity and sales among science, archeology and genealogy buffs. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Sykes (genetics, Oxford Univ.; editor, *Human Inheritance: Genes, Language, and Evolution*) is passionate about his work in decoding mitochondrial DNA and about using this knowledge to trace the path of human evolution. To lure readers into this specialized work, he relates personal and historical anecdotes, offering familiar ground from which to consider the science. A discussion of the history of genetics and descriptions of the early landmark work of Sykes and his associates culminate with his finding that 90 percent of modern Europeans are descendants of just seven women who lived 45,000 to 10,000 years ago. Brief biographies serve to place these "seven daughters" into historical context as understood by archaeology. This is an example of good popular science writing that makes difficult concepts accessible and relevant to the general reader. Recommended for public libraries. (Index not seen..- Ann Forister, Roseville P.L., CA Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

My Mom could have been one. She had three daughters. However, I (the eldest) was the only one who had children, and I had five sons! That takes care of that. I really enjoyed the book. I surprised myself, reading and mostly understanding what I was reading. The only reason I gave it a four instead of a five is because I had never delved into much scientific reading, particularly on genetics. Everything was new to me. I found it extremely interesting. I think I will order a couple more books by the same author.

Explores a new approach to the realm of the potential DNA testing holds to even answering the very age-old question of "Who came into the area we now know as Europe first, the Hunters or the

Farmers?" Credible proof for the settling of the various parts of the world and how the peoples migrated to that area based on the mitochondrial mutations of mothers--utterly fascinating!

Scientific and yet readable, like his other works. I did find it to be a bit male-centric despite being about the female line of ancestry (especially in the areas of speculating what the women's lives were like). Also some of it is a little outdated already (this happens with any scientific work eventually, so no points lost here). I do wish there had been an appendix since DNA results are available to the masses now, and our results do not show the names of the women, but instead show a Haplogroup. I thought at first that my "H" designation might mean Helena (and that may very well be my ancestor) but it turns out most of the other haplogroups do not share a letter in common like "H" does, and I believe it to be just a coincidence.

I read this book while taking human genetics. I also have nearly 20,000 people in my family tree database. I appreciated the view on the evolution of the genetics community, and on the discovery mtDNA sequencing and its usefulness. I did not particularly want to read the diatribe regarding a colleague in the middle of the discovery, and did not feel it added to the story. The description of how science arrived at seven women who were common to pretty much the entire human race, even if at different time periods, was fascinating. It was especially fascinating reading about the many probable other lines that likely died out, and how that occurs. The book contributed immensely to my enjoyment of learning more about genetics.

This is the most comprehensive and informative work I've ever read on genetics. Bryan Sykes is very entertaining even though he's expounding on material that seems very complicated to the average person with minimal exposure and/or understanding in this field. I thoroughly enjoyed this book. I would recommend it to anyone interested in knowing more about genealogy.

I found the author's discussion of the topic of tracing human descent back through the generations very interesting and extremely readable. It would probably be too simple for a biologist, but there is enough detail for the layman to understand the basics of the science. The author talks about his trials during early research. At the end there is discussion of the geographic origins and short stories about the possible lives of the women he describes as "clan mothers", or earliest direct ancestresses of today's world. A thoroughly enjoyable read.

Information about the Mother line of the 7 women who entered Europe at different times and became the Clan Mothers of Europe. Easy to read the author personalized the DNA lines by giving them Names and placing them when & where they estimate they begin there migrations into Europe.What Seven Mother's accomplished.

I was looking for information on a specific "Daughters of Eve." The whole book was interesting to me but again I was most interested in that one "Daughter" that matched my specific Mitochondrial DNA. Pretty technically written so some background on Mito DNA and basic human biology will be helpful. However, any term not fully understood can always be Googled for further reading and self education. Might be more detail than some readers want. It met my expectation.

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