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## Adam's Curse: A Future without Men

*Bryan Sykes*

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*"Weave[s] a grand tapestry of our tense gender co-existence."  
—John Margels, Cleveland Plain Dealer*

### ADAM'S CURSE The Science That Reveals Our Genetic Destiny



BRYAN SYKES

author of the best-selling *The Seven Daughters of Eve*

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#1023999 in Books Bryan Sykes 2005-05-17 2005-05-17Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.20 x .80 x 5.50l, .65 #File Name: 0393326802320 pagesAdam s Curse The Science That Reveals Our Genetic Destiny | File size: 38.Mb

**Bryan Sykes : Adam's Curse: A Future without Men** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Adam's Curse: A Future without Men:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Small typeBy BarbaraThe print is way too small, much smaller than other paperback books. It actually looks like it was compressed and has huge margins all around. Not pleasant to read at all. The subject matter is intriguing, so I'm going to get it in the kindle version ... at least I'll be able to read it.0 of 0

people found the following review helpful. Serious stuff, maybe too seriously exposed By Luis Eugenio Espinosa I jumped into Sykes almost by accident, and I just love his *Daughters of Eve*. In this particular case, although probably more rigorous, I lacked not the scientific approach, but a more congenial author for those, like myself, not very well acquainted with the topic. It is easy to read, but, again, I miss this almost poetic side of the author I found in his other books. 9 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Very Interesting By J. Canestrino Okay, I have not read the other reviews so as not to be biased. I would like for several of my friends to read this book. I think it is very good, but after I tell them it is about the genetics involving the inheritance of the Y-chromosome they ask me if it is too technical. I do not think so, but then again I work as a plant breeder and I have a fairly good knowledge of basic genetics. I consider this book to be more like "coffee table" science compared to the professional journals and books I read. That said, I think this book is very well written and approachable with Dr. Sykes once again doing an excellent job of intertwining genetics, statistics and narrative. The subject matter is of interest to all. I encourage those of you who are purists who only read modern or classic literature and those of you who stick to just one genre of fiction or non-fiction to break out of your mold and give this a read.

The inside story of the Y chromosome's fatal flaw, as told by one of the world's leading geneticists. By the nationally best-selling author of *The Seven Daughters of Eve*, Adam's Curse investigates the ultimate evolutionary crisis: a man-free future. How is it possible that the Y chromosome, which separated the sexes and allowed humans to rise to the apex of the animal kingdom, also threatens to destroy sexual reproduction altogether? Bryan Sykes confronts recent advances in evolutionary theory to find the answers to the questions that inexorably follow: Is there a genetic cause for men's greed, aggression, and promiscuity? Could a male homosexual gene possibly exist? A must read for anyone interested in popular science, family genealogy, and today's infertility crisis, Adam's Curse provokes a shocking debate on the nature of sexual reproduction. 6 illustrations

.com Bryan Sykes follows up *The Seven Daughters of Eve* with the equally challenging and well-written *Adam's Curse*. This time, instead of following humanity's heritage back to the first women, Sykes looks forward to a possible future without men. The seeds of the book's topics were sown when Sykes met a pre-eminent pharmaceutical company chairman who shared his surname. Using the Y chromosome, which is passed nearly unchanged from father to son, the author found that he shared a distant ancestor with the other Sykes. Along the way, he discovered that the Y chromosome was worth examining more closely. The first third of *Adam's Curse* is devoted to a clear and comprehensive lesson about genetics, the second narrates several fascinating stories of tracing ancestry via the Y chromosome, and the last chapters explore the history of male humanity and its future. Some readers will eagerly skim until they reach Chapter 21, where Sykes gets to the heart of the matter--why and how the Y chromosome has created a world where men overwhelmingly own the wealth and power, commit the crimes, and fight the wars. He uses the structural puniness of the Y chromosome to demonstrate that men are as unnecessary biologically as they are dominant socially. Sykes' provocative and quite personal book is likely to be unpopular among science readers who prefer their biology divorced from sociology, but his points taken in context will be difficult to refute. --Therese Littleton From Publishers Weekly Well-known Oxford geneticist Sykes (*The Seven Daughters of Eve*), in this lively and thought-provoking book, gives a genetic twist to the battle between the sexes. All human existence, he says, stems from the battle between the X and Y chromosomes to further their own reproduction at the expense of the other. The Y chromosome is passed on only by fathers, while mitochondrial DNA is passed on only by mothers. Sykes shows that many members of several Scottish clans (most notably the Macdonalds) can be traced via their Y chromosomes back to a common ancestor. Researchers have also been able to trace the extent of Viking settlement and intermarriage in the British Isles and northern Europe through Y chromosome distribution. Sykes's argument for a genetic role in homosexuality will undoubtedly be controversial. Using Dean Hamer's pedigrees, he claims that evidence points less to a "gay gene" than to mitochondrial DNA playing the leading role in a Machiavellian plot to further its own reproduction. Sykes concludes by noting that, as evidenced by declining sperm counts and high percentages of abnormal sperm, among other variables, the Y chromosome is a genetic mess and is deteriorating so quickly that men could become extinct. Those who find that a happy thought will want to snap up this book, as well as readers interested in learning what our chromosomes tell us about where we came from and where we may be headed. 6 illus. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Bookmarks Magazine Sykes, a geneticist at Oxford who studies DNA to help explain human history, explored mDNA and the origins of women in *The Seven Daughters of Eve*. Here, he turns to their stronger or weaker half, depending on whos talking. He draws from different scientific fields to map out the battle between the sexes at its tiniest level. Some parts are riveting, other parts are too speculative: is homosexuality really a subversive matriarchal tactic? Overall, Sykes fascinates with asides that resemble those of the best science writers, but leaves too many vague ideas about genetic determinism floating around. Still, its a compelling read, the dark side of the maternal tale told in his previous book (*Cleveland Plain Dealer*). Copyright 2004 Phillips Nelson Media, Inc.