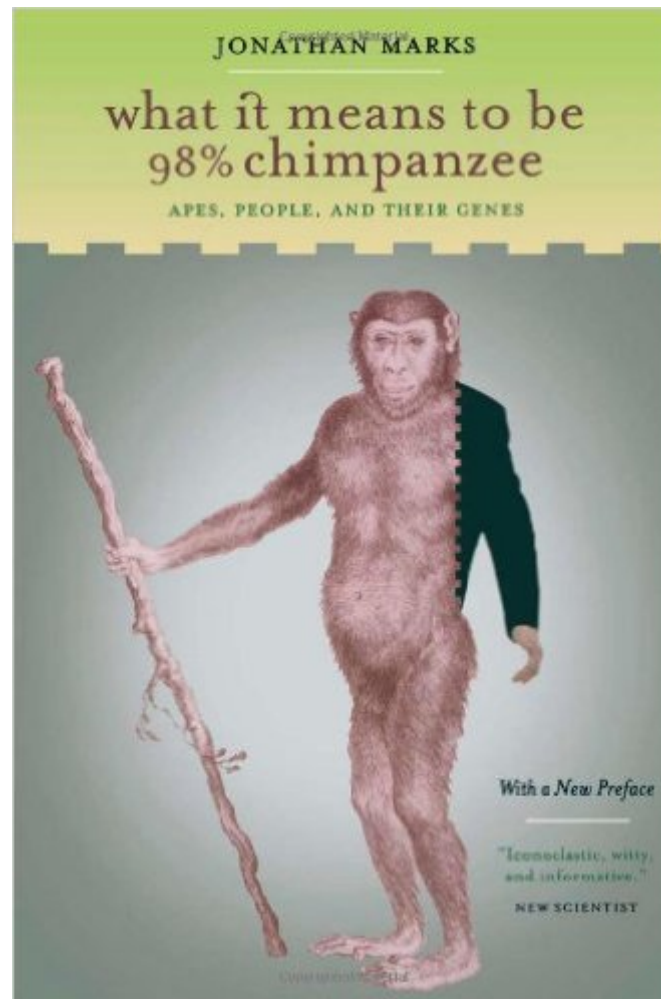


The book was found

# What It Means To Be 98% Chimpanzee: Apes, People, And Their Genes



## Synopsis

Marks presents the field of molecular anthropology; a synthesis of the holistic approach of anthropology with the reductive approach of molecular genetics; as a way of improving our understanding of the science of human evolution. This iconoclastic, witty, and extremely readable book illuminates the deep background of our place in nature and asks us to think critically about what science is, and what passes for it, in modern society.

## Book Information

Paperback: 333 pages

Publisher: University of California Press; New Ed edition (November 1, 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0520240642

ISBN-13: 978-0520240643

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 0.8 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.4 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (23 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #175,007 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #51 in [Books > Science & Math > Biological Sciences > Zoology > Mammals](#) #111 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Anthropology > Physical](#) #120 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Political Science > Constitutions](#)

## Customer Reviews

The easiest thing to do about Marks' work is to dismiss it. Maybe we can simply state that herein lies that 'lefty pinko commie propaganda' that tries hopelessly to be 'PC.' And that's all she wrote! But I am afraid it is not so simple...Jonathan Marks is writing about my field. I have done some similar work. He is fighting against a popular old force, which tries to ignore not only cultural influence, but also ecological and political, and other influences. Marks is an expert in his field, and this is very evident. It is interesting that one of the reviewers of this book, Mr. Haines, cites research from past ten years as diminishing to this book. I would like to see this research, not published in a newspaper, please. Genetic determinism, for all its promises, has failed to live up to its expectations. It tries to solve grand answers, and this is pretty hard. Marks is right to question evolutionary psychology, as the field has brought almost nothing but the so-called 'just-so' stories. This is not science, this is myth. And Marks exposes it, as he should. I am also at a loss to observe how Marks wants no Darwinist baggage. This is false; he notes in his work that these explanations

can contribute--but again, grand theories based on this kind of 'science' avoid about 150 years of anthropology, which has gone through many of the same pitfalls, by the way. He is right to question the silliness of invoking the 98% chimpanzee argument, as it is a ridiculous one. He is right to note that folk knowledge manages to mingle in with what is supposed to be science. This is easily the best part of the book, and the dripping sarcasm and the molten anger with which Marks writes is immensely entertaining. However, it is also tragic to observe.

First a couple of structural observations before i look at the content. It has the organization and transitional structure between chapters of independent essays written for other venues and later shaped into a book. I do not know this for a fact, but the absence of a strong theme which ties the chapters together into a coherent structured book is a hint at it's origin. This lack of coherency as a whole is the main reason i rated it a 4 and not a 5. Second, i bought the book based on reviews and word of mouth recommendations that were wrong about the themes of the book. I thought it was going to be about what makes chimps and humans different. What it is, is an introduction to anthropologic genetics, behavioral genetics, simply the relationship of genetics to human nature. What i thought was the topic of the book is in fact the issue of chapter 11, titled "is blood so really damn thick?". However it is opposed to sociobiology (evolutionary psychology) in a very consistent manner, so don't confuse the two. In fact, i was mildly disappointed at this organization and what i thought was a misleading advertising, so much so that i put down the book in chapter 4 and it sank to the bottom of the to-be-read pile for several weeks. This was in addition to what seemed like an eternity spent talking about race. Sadly so because the 6th chapter "folk heredity" is very good on explaining several interesting and illuminating genetic principles: taxonomism, racism, hereditarianism, essentialism (i would have started with chapter 6 if i had known). Simply put i gave up too quickly, don't you make the same mistake.

Accepting the fallacy of Marks' title, let us start on a positive note. Marks wants to keep apes and humans separate. Fair enough. I don't want to live on termites on a stick, and it's doubtful chimps want to worry about traffic congestion, tax rates or political corruption. Marks wants scientists to do their job well. Who can argue? Marks has courage - he has the temerity to assault the venerable E. O. Wilson, the articulate Richard Dawkins and the revered Jane Goodall. Marks is against racism. Hardly debatable. Marks seems a pretty upstanding fellow. Why then, is this book such an insult to the intelligence? Mostly because it is a froth of misleading statements, misdirected wrath, misconceptions and mistaken views of science. Marks goes to unusual lengths in dismissing the

research achievements of many scientists in both field and laboratory. He blithely dismisses the disclosure that chimpanzee and human genes are nearly identical as "the most overly exposed factoid in modern science." It's not significant because it confuses precision with accuracy. From there, Marks goes on to castigate a legion of scientists for their failure to "get it right" the first time around. Few escape his lash - even Linneaus, who virtually invented classifying life, is a victim, and perpetrator, of cultural artifacts in naming species. This from a man who finds culture an unbridgeable chasm between humans and animals! Marks spends much of the remainder of the book discussing racial/cultural undercurrents in science. He finds far too much of it in current anthropology. He's correct in this, but his case is "overblown"- a favourite phrase of his. In a welter of complaints, he finds but two scientists to exonerate of the charge: Richard Leowntin and - himself.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

What it Means to be 98% Chimpanzee: Apes, People, and their Genes Rise of the Planet of the Apes and Dawn of Planet of the Apes: The Art of the Films How To Analyze People: Mastering Analyzing and Reading People: (How To Read People, Analyze People, Psychology, People Skills, Body Language, Social Skills) The Real Planet of the Apes: A New Story of Human Origins UNEXPLAINED DISAPPEARANCES & MISSING PEOPLE.: MISSING PEOPLE CASE FILES; UNEXPLAINED DISAPPEARANCES; MISSING PEOPLE. (UNEXPLAINED DISAPPEARANCES : MISSING PEOPLE Book 2) What He REALLY Means When He Says... - The Ultimate Guide to Understanding Men, Knowing What They REALLY Think and How to Read Their Minds in Every Situation Understanding Genetics: DNA, Genes, and Their Real-World Applications How To Analyze People: Body Language and Human Psychology Guide to Mastering Analyzing (Analyze People, Body Language, Human Psychology, How to Analyze People) People's History of Sports in the United States: 250 Years of Politics, Protest, People, and Play (New Press People's History) Ends And Means: The British Mesopotamian Campaign and Commission Clean Eats: Over 200 Delicious Recipes to Reset Your Body's Natural Balance and Discover What It Means to Be Truly Healthy College (Un)bound: The Future of Higher Education and What It Means for Students College Unbound: The Future of Higher Education and What It Means for Students By Any Means Necessary: Trials And Tribulations of the Making of Malcolm X Yes Means Yes!: Visions of Female Sexual Power and A World Without Rape The Heart of the Lotus Sutra: Lectures on the "Expedient Means" and "Life Span" Chapters Communitas: Means of Livelihood and Ways of Life (Morningside Books) Cracking the Aging Code: The New Science of Growing Old-And What It Means for Staying Young Prepper's Home Defense: Security Strategies to Protect Your Family by Any Means

Necessary (Preppers) Kwa Heri Means Goodbye: Memories of Kenya 1957-1959

[Dmca](#)