Contents

Prologue

Chapter 1

Introduction

Why love songs?

Love and evolution: is love hardwired?

Culture, civilization and the emergence of dyadic relationships

The love song, and what it tells us about the origin of romantic love and monogamy

When did love and love songs emerge and why? a new proposal

Chapter 2

"I Want You, I Want You, I Waaaaant You...": Love and Sex

The love song: a response to the sex taboo

Between romantic love and sexual lust

Human sex, ape sex, and romantic love

The love song, sexual inhibitions, and courtship

Sexual spectacle: the love song in fertility rites and festivals

A brief message about lonely hearts: individual love songs

Summary: love, sex, and taboo

Chapter 3

No Love Song, No Romance?

Life without love songs: case studies

The Pygmies

Sun people

Are love songs absent in most African cultures?

Babemba of Rhodesia, the Masai and Nandi, and the Shilluk

Absence of the love song in the Americas and its relation to sexual customs

Love songs in Papua New Guinea

Summary: why is the love song absent in some cultures while

it thrives in others?

Chapter 4

Sexual Behaviour in Humans: From Multiple-Partner Unions to Pair-Bonding and Individual Marriage

Multiple-partner sexual unions in human culture

Polygynandrous mating and jealousy

Can pair-bonding be the original hominin model?

Partible paternity and multiple-partner sexual unions

Weakness and non-existence of marriage

Chapter 5

Sexuality in Social Species

Sex in chimpanzees and bonobos

Socially-living species and polygynandry

Group living, multiple sexual relations, and coordinated choruses

Choruses and birds

Chorusing birds: monogamous or promiscuous?

Multiple-partner sexuality and sperm competition

Multiple-partner sex, natural selection, cooperation, and altruism

Chapter 6

Sociality and the Origins of Sex

From individual to group model check

Chapter 7

"We Are Not Animals": Problematisation of Sex in Human Culture

Incest taboo and genetic factors

Chapter 8

Sexual Frustration, Sexual Preoccupation, and Romantic Love

Postlude

Why Do We Feel Romantic Love Towards the Special One?