



# Brain Sex: The Real Difference Between Men and Women

*Anne Moir , David Jessel*

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## **Brain Sex: The Real Difference Between Men and Women** Anne Moir , David Jessel

Why can't a woman be more like a man? What is this thing called "feminine intuition"? Why are men better at reading maps, and women at other people's characters? The answers lie in the basic biological differences between the male and female brain, which, say the authors, make it impossible for the sexes to share equal emotional or intellectual qualities.

## **Brain Sex: The Real Difference Between Men and Women Details**

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### Greta says

Read Delusions of Gender: How Our Minds, Society, and Neurosexism Create Difference instead.

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### Isy says

Yes, the female brain is different from as early as gestation according to an Israeli scientist. It's also proven female serial killers think with the same parts of their brains as men. Interesting, but if the first is true how can the 2nd ever occur?

The answers aren't stated in this book or anywhere I've looked. Science, funny thing it is.

In this book it's simply a way to counter feminism. As a STEM major, seeing science used to push down women or help fortify the entire "we think different. weaker. fragile. emotional" stereotype is infuriating. Science allows us to see connections, establish facts. Speak connections, don't put them as facts. Particularly when environment and experience make so much of the human psyche. Food for thought.

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### shay says

i really enjoyed the science of it all, but i found the tone of the book to be somewhat negative and annoying. they say the book wasn't meant to be prescriptive, but they definitely spent a lot of time talking in ways that seemed to be prescribing certain solutions or ways of thinking about the information presented. i would have preferred a straight-forward presentation without the author's opinions. but definitely an interesting book.

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### Ahmet says

enormously sexist book. it's garbage.

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### Peter Brooks says

I had my quibbles with the content from time to time, perhaps because I have a feminine brain in certain respects to various degrees, (I am very aesthetically minded, for example, even though I am a male) but generally appreciated the authors use of scientific studies and reasoning, and I really admire and honor them for their bravery in the face of our repressive politically correct public culture (No, I am not a fan or follower of Donald "The Banal" Trump, but I will defend his right to express himself without governmental or social censorship or repression.) I believe the persons who trash the book as sexist are emotional reactionaries rather than objective critics. If it had been a comparison of different, but very closely related monkeys who can mate, they probably would have not written such vehement (and misleading, in my opinion) reviews. By





who had, at an early age (nine), fired my passion for this issue to begin with. Guess that makes it five stars - well aware that the debate has moved on somewhat since its publication (1989).

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### **Stephanie says**

The authors don't take into account any grey areas in human behavior, suggesting genders are cut from two distinct and very different clothes. Biology is NOT destiny. Horrible book!

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### **Sue Ellis says**

Scientific facts written in a most readable way, almost like a novel; fully referenced and should be a set book in every high school and/or university(if they missed it at school. This is more dense than the later, lighter and funnier book: "Why Men Don't Listen and Women Can't Read Maps" by Allan & Barbara Pease - which is also highly recommended for all boys, girls, men and women, who wish to understand a bit more about the difference between the genders.

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### **Brenton says**

Brain Sex was written by a neuroscientist and a journalist who attempted to collect the myriad nodes of information about the brains of men and women that science had uncovered up to the mid 80s and then decipher the information with regards to what we as a society believe about gender.

In short, all the science up to the mid 80s more or less makes a laughingstock of feminism and the belief that men and women are, genetically and chemically speaking, identical blank slates upon birth upon which society then impresses gender stereotypes. Such a model of gender couldn't be further from the truth.

This is not to say that sexism in any form is perfectly OK; the book proffers that the differences in the brains of men and women give each gender unique strengths and that it would be best for us as a society to recognize these counterpart strengths and figure out how to use them together, whether in the home, in the office, or wherever, rather than one sex trying to become more like the other or, even worse, ignoring the differences completely and carrying on as if they don't exist.

After starting this book, I was surprised to look back and find that it was published almost twenty years ago. I immediately wondered what vast stores of knowledge on brain chemistry and gender differences have been discovered and published since then, and how those discoveries have further strengthened or weakened our knowledge of how gender is determined by hormones and brain structure.

My one complaint with the book is that the authors view all the science as confirming all those cliché gender stereotypes that we all know by heart, but then takes those stereotypes for granted without pausing to wonder just how accurate they really are. I think that nearly every stereotype is born from truth, no matter how far the stereotype has been twisted, blown out of proportion, or dogmatized. I don't deny that men and women, in general, act differently in a number of ways, but I also know quite a handful of people who do not follow their gender stereotypes. The science presented in the book clearly explains this, but I'm more curious about the percentages of the population that exhibit these differences, and the authors of Brain Sex don't seem to examine this very closely, instead making broad, sweeping statements about men and map reading and

women and emotions.

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### **Mark Kennedy says**

The opening sentence says it all "To maintain that men and women are the same in aptitude, skill or behavior, is to build a society based on a biological and scientific lie."

This very provocative book written in the atmosphere of late 70's & 80's radical feminism, puts forward a strong and forceful argument that sex differences do not arise from social conditioning or even 'nurture' or trauma but from the physical and chemical differences in the Male and Female brain.

I found this a very interesting read especially in light of the recent (or not so recent) debates about 'equality'. Mainly that equality means 'sameness' - no difference. In light of this research you could conclude that this definition of 'equality' is impossible given the differences in male and female brains and how those differences shape behavior, social patterns, work choice, family life and the body its self.

The authors use broad sweeping generalisations which is generally not what people want to hear but I found helpful in establishing general patterns and understanding the big picture. They cannot be accused of 'dying the death of 1000 qualifications'.

I do wonder how the research has progressed in the 20 odd years since the book has been written.

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### **Janell Rhiannon says**

This is the most sexist book I've ever read. Seriously suggesting that we should accept men as viewing women as sex objects and go with the flow...this is utter garbage. No wonder we are still struggling regarding equality between men and women with crap like this out there. I found this book in my library, read it, have no idea how it was added to my collection and now I'm going to burn it in the fire pit.

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