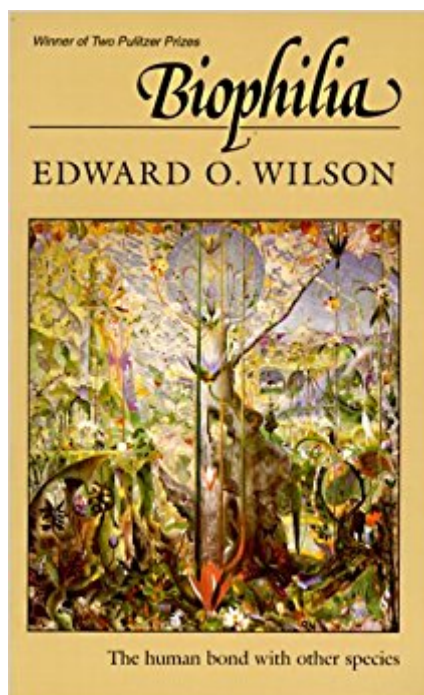


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# Biophilia



## Synopsis

Biophilia is Edward O. Wilson's most personal book, an evocation of his own response to nature and an eloquent statement of the conservation ethic. Wilson argues that our natural affinity for life "biophilia" is the very essence of our humanity and binds us to all other living things.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

A fine memoir by one of America's foremost evolutionary biologists. E. O. Wilson defines biophilia as 'the innate tendency [in human beings] to focus on life and lifelike process. To an extent still undervalued in philosophy and religion, our existence depends on this propensity, our spirit is woven from it, hopes rise on its currents.' Scientifically demonstrating this human propensity would be a task beyond the scope of today's biology, and Wilson wisely eschews that course. Instead, he relies on his own experiences and feelings as a field biologist, cleverly interweaving them with the facts, history, and philosophy of evolutionary biology and an eclectic set of cultural observations. (Paul R. Ehrlich Natural History) There's more to this unbuttoned and intellectually playful book than its plea for a conservation of ethic and the preservation of animal species in all their diversity. We get, for example, several autobiographical glimpses into the background of Professor Wilson... We see Professor Wilson as a boy growing up in the Florida panhandle... Elsewhere he astonishes us with a description of the mating dance of the male Emperor of Germany bird of paradise, and the degree of genetic congruity between pygmy chimpanzees and Homo Sapiens. (Christopher Lehmann-Haupt New York Times) E. O. Wilson is the entomologist Curator of the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard. His science writing for the general public has won him the Pulitzer

Prize and his scientific publications have won him the highest honors American science can bestow. He is well equipped to engage a subject dear to nature-lovers which until now has not been identified as a species trait--biophilia. The freshness of Wilson's approach lies in its freedom from the obsessions of the environmentalist movement...While he shares the conservationist ethic of environmentalists, and seeks to impart its practical imperatives, he eschews cultism...Let this highly readable book then be commended to all biophiliacs and technocrats. (Hiram Caton Times Literary Supplement)The book consists of a set of nine essays. Although they are masterpieces of prose style, they more effectively illustrate Wilson's own biophilia than his contention that biophilia exists as a general human trait...Wilson moves fluidly among minute observations of life forms ranging from leaf-cutter ants to birds of paradise, artfully pausing for a philosophical reflection here and a folksy anecdote there. (John Wilkes Los Angeles Times)A fine memoir by one of America's foremost evolutionary biologists...erudite, elegant, and poetic (Natural History)Biophilia is an immensely readable book. Wilson is a master storyteller, skillful at evoking exotic scenes. (Washington Post Book World)Wilson's own empathy with things illuminates these essays with fresh perceptions of everyday matters...They are masterpieces of prose style. (Los Angeles Times)

Edward O. Wilson is Pellegrino University Professor, Emeritus, at Harvard University. In addition to two Pulitzer Prizes (one of which he shares with Bert Hölldobler), Wilson has won many scientific awards, including the National Medal of Science and the Crafoord Prize of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.

This book is almost like a love story. It is one of the best books that I have ever read. It is a book that does great service to science in general; biology in particular; and, especially the wonderful variety in our planet. You can almost feel the beauty of the living fauna, the insects, and the world that Edward Wilson describes. The book weaves in and out between poetry, science and the environment. The writing is lyrical. What can I say? This book is a joy to read. Read it, and go out and rediscover the world.

Wilson reminds the reader to view our global habitat by taking the long view. Destruction of natural habitats and species may be the most urgent issue of our times. The philosophical discussion of humanity's affinity for nature and the need to safeguard it has been expanded upon in the decades since this book's publication, but Wilson's thoughts are still timely. I recommend this book to all that are concerned about conservation, both to witness how Wilson's ideas have permeated current

views of habitat conservation and to recommit to preserving nature in these distracting political times.

This thin little book is very well written and full of the love and wonder E. O. Wilson feels for the natural world which just radiates from his narrative. It is a joy to read not just because it takes readers to Central America, Papua New Guinea, and elsewhere, but also because it makes one think about the value of conservation. It's a call to get us all to think of the world from the tiniest creature, onwards. It is a subtle call to action to protect the incredible planet we inhabit.

Edward O. Wilson is legendary for a reason. enough said

This was my start, many years ago. Be sure to read EOW's The Future of Life. If you are into climate change, the environment and a healthy planet and peoples, don't miss Edward O. Wilson. Awesome, Awesome, Awesome. Thank you Dr. Wilson, for your gifts to us as a scientist!

Extinction is an attack on the planet that gives us life. We should not dismiss the importance of any species until we determine that is not crucial to our own existence. Ed Wilson continues to be one of the most eloquent defenders of the natural world and its diversity.

I've read many books by E.O.Wilson--Conciliation, In Search of Nature, The Creation, and many more--and all are inspiring.

Somewhat technical, yet easy to understand. A joy to read.

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Biophilia

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