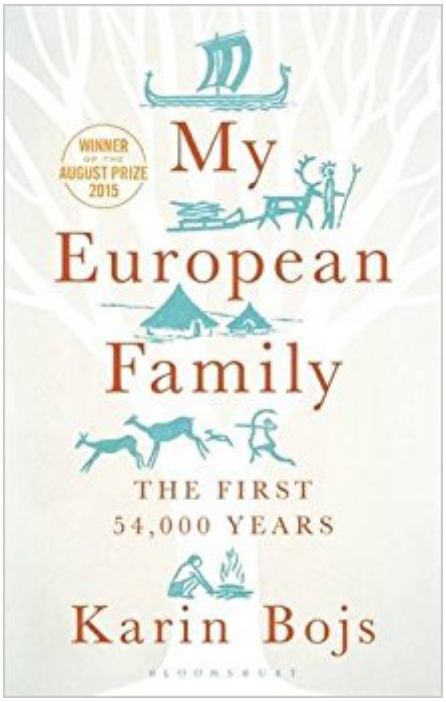
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My European Family: The First 54,000 Years (Bloomsbury Sigma)



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Synopsis

Karin Bojs grew up in a small, broken family, and at her mother's funeral she felt this more keenly than ever. As part of the healing process, she decided to use DNA research to learn more about herself, her family, and the interconnectedness of society. She went deep in search of her genealogy, having her DNA sequenced and tested, and effectively becoming an experimental subject. Remarkably, she was able to trace the path of her ancestors through recorded history and into prehistory. Through the course of her research, she met dozens of scientists working in genetic research. The narrative travels the length and breadth of Europe, from the Neanderthals of central Germany to the Cro-Magnon in France. Bojs visited the ancient caves, realizing that her direct ancestors must have been living in the area when the cave art was painted. A second DNA analysis later revealed she has Sami (i.e. Lapp) genetic material in her genome, and there were further revelations about her hunter-gatherer, Bronze-Age, and Iron-Age relatives, including the Vikings. This fresh, first-person exploration of genes and genetics goes well beyond personal genealogy and reveals much about the shared history of European peoples.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Well-written work of popular science . . . a book to consult before swabbing, full of insight into the uses and abuses of genetics." - Kirkus Reviews"A thoughtful and personal story for readers with an interest in early European history, genealogy, or archaeology." - Cate Hirschbiel, Library Journal"Meticulous, up-to-date, and never tedious, [Bojs] draws from hundreds of scientific results to

create a broad-brush picture of human evolution, showing us how DNA research is revolutionizing our knowledge of the past." - Karin Altenberg, The Wall Street Journal

Karin Bojs is a Swedish author and journalist and the former science editor of Swedish daily newspaper Dagens Nyheter. This is the first English translation of My European Family, which won the August Prize when it was published in Sweden in 2015. She lives in Gothenburg, Sweden.

Excellent summary of the state of the art in the use of DNA to trace huiman migration patterns. The only weakness is the relatively heavy focus on Scandinavia.

good summary of latest research

A very readable book about a complex, rapidly evolving topic. Besides the broad picture, many of Karin BojsÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s findings hit surprisingly close to home, and I now think we must be cousins! Of course, if youÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢re interested in this topic, you know that if you go back far enough, we are all cousins.

Since I am also of European ancestry I found it very interesting.

I thought this book would be more than it turned out to be

Halfway through and definitely liking it. Every once in a while, it gets repetitive and I think I've gone back a chapter.

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