
*Preface and
Acknowledgments*

It seems to me that of all the questions that await answers in science, two are most central. The first deals with the nature and origin of the universe and is the realm of astronomers. The second is who we are and where we come from, and that is what this book is about. I began to think about writing this book while I was studying chimpanzees and their prey in East Africa in the early 1990s. Nearly every journal article on human origins that I had ever read paid homage to the importance of chimpanzee behavior in understanding the lives of early hominids. But these papers were just lip service; the authors rarely took very seriously the integration of the different routes to understanding human origins. I felt much would be gained by bringing together the information about our fossil ancestors, modern primates, and modern human-hunting-and-gathering societies. In 1995, while working on another book about chimpanzee predatory behavior, I was invited by Princeton University Press to write precisely that sort of book, to become part of the Princeton Trade Science series. For this invita-

tion I thank PUP, particularly science editor Jack Repcheck.

The reader needs no background in human evolution or primate behavior to appreciate the significance of what I will describe about who we are and where we've come from. The figures and tables are few in number and serve to illustrate important points in the text. A portion of *The Hunting Apes* stems from my own research on chimpanzees and other primates. However, most of the information contained in the book is secondhand; the reader may consult the notes at the back of the book for the original sources.

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