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# Bonk: The Curious Coupling Of Science And Sex

Brilliance **UNABRIDGED**

**MARY ROACH**  
best-selling author of **STIFF**



## Synopsis

The best-selling author of *Stiff* turns her outrageous curiosity and infectious wit on the most alluring scientific subject of all: sex. The study of sexual physiology—what happens, and why, and how to make it happen better—has been a paying career or a diverting sideline for scientists as far-ranging as Leonardo da Vinci and James Watson. The research has taken place behind the closed doors of laboratories, brothels, MRI centers, pig farms, sex-toy R&D labs, and Alfred Kinsey's attic. Mary Roach, "the funniest science writer in the country" (Burkhard Bilger of *The New Yorker*), devoted the past two years to stepping behind those doors. Can a person think herself to orgasm? Can a dead man get an erection? Is vaginal orgasm a myth? Why doesn't Viagra help women—or, for that matter, pandas? In *Bonk*, Roach shows us how and why sexual arousal and orgasm, two of the most complex, delightful, and amazing scientific phenomena on earth, can be so hard to achieve and what science is doing to slowly make the bedroom a more satisfying place. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Good read. This book is less about sex and more about the difficult and often amusing world of the sex researcher. Often facing professional censure and the risk of public outcry (or worse) these researchers delved into the study of human sexuality with interesting, sometimes hilarious and occasionally cringe-worthy results. Mary Roach, the author, writes in a very fluid, easy to read style that doesn't bog down too much in the medical terminology or chemistry details.

I have always liked Mary Roach's books but honestly this one did not deliver. She focuses on a narrow sliver of the sexual experience when I expected a full-blown round the world experimental diagnosis from her. Boring.

I love scientist turned writer, Mary Roach. When I read her books, I feel like I'm in that college class with the professor that is such a charismatic lecturer, that any subject automatically becomes fascinating. She has a great way of making scientific subject accessible and entertaining for any reader. I've read several of Roach's books, including my favorite, "Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers" and she is a author that I can always count on to churn out a great read. Although published in 2008, "Bonk: The Curious Coupling of Science and Sex", just made it way to my TBR list. I actually purchased it on my Kindle following a death in the family, because I knew that Roach's unique mix of humor and education would provide a good distraction during a tough time. It worked. In Bonk, Roach explores various facets of sex research. Although Kinsey, Masters and Johnson are all key players, Roach goes beyond the usual suspects to bring a broader range to the topic, including current research being conducted around the world. Sex research can be a difficult arena in which to find willing participants and Roach often finds herself (and her husband) getting directly involved. It's proper research and her husband got a free trip to Europe! As with her other books, there are many shocking tid-bits and facts. It's one of those reads where you find yourself constantly wanting to read aloud sections of the book to whomever is in close proximity, because it's too good not to share. In particular, I found the sections on the penis transplants to be particularly fascinating and often grotesque. Some of the sex toys and aids on the market that Roach details are quite bizarre and funny. She, without a hint of embarrassment, gets to the bottom of certain obscure patents and their creators. I'm quite certain that she had trouble keeping a straight face during some of the conversations, especially with the devices that don't have sound scientific backing. This book has great sections for those interested in animal behaviorism, specifically primatology. Honestly, this probably would not be a good pick for someone who is sensitive or shy about discussing sex. It's graphic. Roach isn't trying to go for shock value, but she does explain things in a frank manner. I appreciate her approach and found much of this book to be very interesting. I highly recommend Bonk and Roach's other books. Please visit my blog for more reviews and thoughts.

Actually loved it. I read it while on vacation to relax (don't judge me) and disturbed my friend at night

giggling over parts of it. I enjoyed the author's footnotes, the jokes, and the imagery. I loved the facts and history of it. Going to by another of Roach's books right now!

"To get inside a lubricated vagina, a penis needs to be hard enough to push against the opening with one to two pounds of force. That is approximately the amount of force required to open a swinging kitchen door." - Mary Roach in BONKIt's blurbs like this that both enlighten and humour me to the point of tears. While most of us would consider the above bit of information a given, experience has taught me that, unfortunately, it is not. I'm pleasantly surprised that she pointed out the many aspects of sexuality adults should be aware of but are completely oblivious of. I also appreciate her gloves-off, straightforward writing style. Despite the true serious nature of her work, she never loses her sense of humour, even when describing the more awkward, albeit increasingly common, sexual practices many of us engage in and/or fantasize about! This book has made me realize my own ideas and feelings about sex are not only normal, they're damn near mundane. Lest I disappoint Ms. Roach, I've got a lot more of my own personal research to conduct!

Mary Roach is an engaging and hilarious author. I have loved every single one of her books that I've read. I also highly recommend her book on traveling into space and "Stiff."

I listen to it on my Kindle app. Interesting Book for all us men who want to make sure they please their woman.

The most fun I've ever had reading a "science" book. I love Ms Roach's writing style, intelligence, and sense of humor. I've read most of her books, and although they were all good, this one is an educational hoot. Even the footnotes! I laughed...I cringed...I learned. Note: If you don't have a reasonably developed sense of humor, don't buy this book.

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