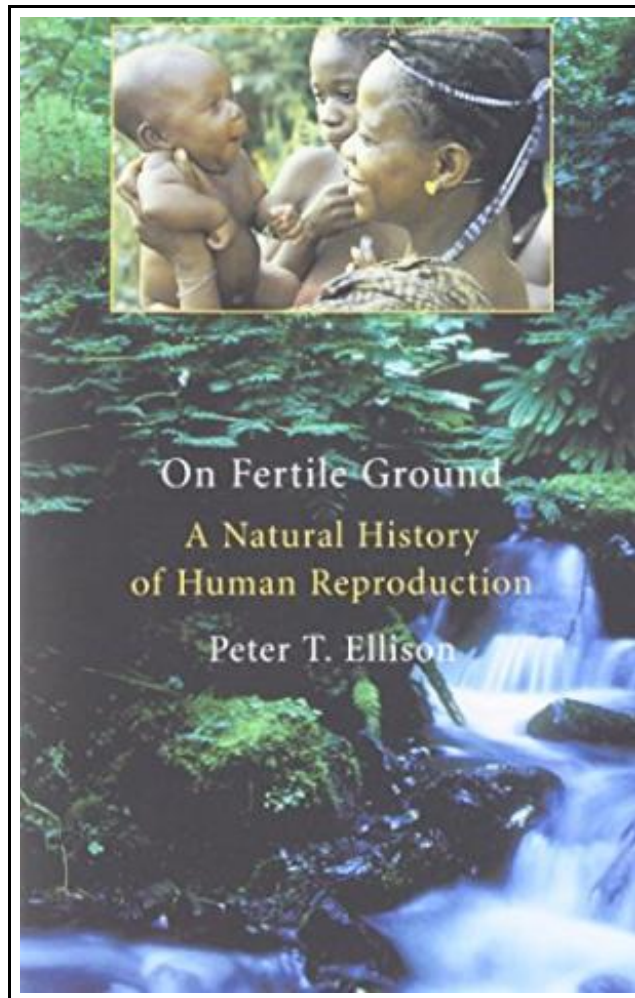


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ON FERTILE GROUND: A NATURAL HISTORY OF HUMAN REPRODUCTION



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HARVARD UNIVERSITY PRESS, United States, 2003. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Revised ed.. 221 x 145 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. Reproduction is among the most basic of human biological functions, both for our distant ancestors and for ourselves, whether we live on the plains of Africa or in North American suburbs. Our reproductive biology unites us as a species, but it has also been an important engine of our evolution. In the way our bodies function today we can see both the imprint of our formative past and implications for our future. It is the infinitely subtle and endlessly dramatic story of human reproduction and its evolutionary context that Peter T. Ellison tells in this text. Ranging from the latest achievements of modern fertility clinics to the lives of subsistence farmers in the rain forests of Africa, this book offers both a broad and a minutely detailed exploration of human reproduction. Ellison combines the perspectives of anthropology, stressing the range and variation of human experience; ecology, sensitive to the two-way interactions between humans and their environments; and evolutionary biology, emphasizing a functional understanding of human reproductive biology and its role in our evolutionary history. Whether contrasting female athletes missing their periods and male athletes using anabolic steroids with Polish farm women and hunter-gatherers in Paraguay, or exploring the intricate choreography of an implanting embryo or of a nursing mother and her child, this book advances a rich explanation of the mechanisms by which we reproduce and the evolutionary forces behind their design.



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