

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910827466603321
Autore	Barash David P
Titolo	How women got their curves and other just-so stories : evolutionary enigmas // David P. Barash and Judith Eve Lipton
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New York, : Columbia University Press, c2009
ISBN	1-282-79646-1 9786612796463 0-231-51839-0
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (225 p.)
Altri autori (Persone)	LiptonJudith Eve
Disciplina	305.4
Soggetti	Women - Evolution
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 191-206) and index.
Nota di contenuto	On scientific mysteries and just-so stories -- Why menstruate? -- Invisible ovulation -- Breasts and other curves -- The enigmatic orgasm -- The menopause mystery -- Epilogue: The lure of the Limpopo.
Sommario/riassunto	So how did women get their curves? Why do they have breasts, while other mammals only develop breast tissue while lactating, and why do women menstruate, when virtually no other beings do so? What are the reasons for female orgasm? Why are human females kept in the dark about their own time of ovulation and maximum fertility, and why are they the only animals to experience menopause?David P. Barash and Judith Eve Lipton, coauthors of acclaimed books on human sexuality and gender, discuss the theories scientists have advanced to explain these evolutionary enigmas (sometimes called "Just-So stories" by their detractors) and present hypotheses of their own. Some scientific theories are based on legitimate empirical data, while others are pure speculation. Barash and Lipton distinguish between what is solid and what remains uncertain, skillfully incorporating their expert knowledge of biology, psychology, animal behavior, anthropology, and human sexuality into their entertaining critiques. Inviting readers to examine the evidence and draw their own conclusions, Barash and Lipton tell an evolutionary suspense story that captures the excitement and thrill of

true scientific detection.
