

### Buzz: The Nature and Necessity of Bees by Thor Hanson



A special relationship between humans and bees has existed since the dawn of time yet our love of these insects has now dwindled to apathy, just when they need us the most. The threat of colony collapse disorder and bee extinction casts a shadow over most aspects of our lives; with this book, Thor Hanson firmly thrusts bees back into the spotlight, encouraging us to consider how our actions may save our forgotten friends. The writing is evocative and filled with nostalgia, conjuring memories of

fluffy little Dumbledores bouncing between petals and hard-working mothers preparing bee bread for their young. The facts are astounding, as Hanson describes the co-evolution of man and bee, while the delightful descriptions of bee anatomy make one gasp with surprise. The addition of beautiful photographs and diagrams further brings this story to life.

Hanson cleverly avoids placing too much focus on honeybees, instead reintroducing the lesser-known species that are nonetheless vital for ecological balance and thus igniting admiration for these other beautiful, intelligent, humorous characters. After finishing this book, the reader feels a duty to protect our furry friends, who have given us so much over the years and enrich our lives; upon putting it down, I immediately searched for ways to get involved, infected by Hanson's enthusiasm. This book carries great societal importance by teaching us the significance of bees in our past, our present and our future, and I would encourage all to read it.

**Nicola Edwards**

PhD Student, Cardiovascular Research Group  
(Manchester Metropolitan University, UK)

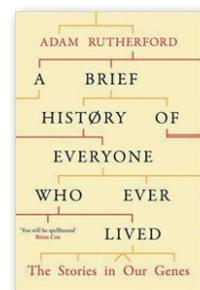
### A Honeybee Heart had Five Openings: A Year of Keeping Bees by Helen Jukes



From a cold and grey November evening, Helen Jukes takes us on a charming journey through her year of becoming a beekeeper. Having recently moved into a new house and begun a new job in Oxford we meet the author as she explores her new backyard to walk away the stress of work. Having had some previous experience with urban beekeeping in London an idea pops into her head, "This is where the bees should go."

After mentioning this to her housemate and a few other friends, at Christmas she receives an envelope with a card from them all for a box of bees, to be collected in the spring. Helen realises that her idle thoughts about bees are becoming a reality and we join her as she researches bees and beekeeping on her way to managing a hive of her very own. Along the way we meet her friends who support her and watch as new relationships begin.

### A Brief History of Everyone Who Ever Lived by Adam Rutherford



Every painting is unique but if you compare them you start to see consistencies and patterns in the style, colour pallet and composition. In a similar way, every genome is unique but by looking at lots of them (over 250,000 whole genomes have been recorded so far) we can learn a lot about the things we share, what makes us human and the genetic evolution that brought us here.

Dr Adam Rutherford is a UCL-trained geneticist and his book describes the methods used to map genomics and some of the studies which have searched through the data looking for significance. For example, one of the early chapters discusses the notion that everyone alive in the 10th century in Europe who left descendants, is the ancestor of every European alive today. This concept can be tricky to get your head around but the implications are fun and Rutherford poses them well.

Proving racism to be a fools' errand, one chapter discusses how members of the same race are genetically less similar to those of the same race than others — and then goes on to describe the complete lack of any genetic basis for race. I found this section to be somewhat repetitive, in an otherwise captivating read. A highly enjoyable and well-written introduction to the history of genetics, as well as modern genomics and GWAS.

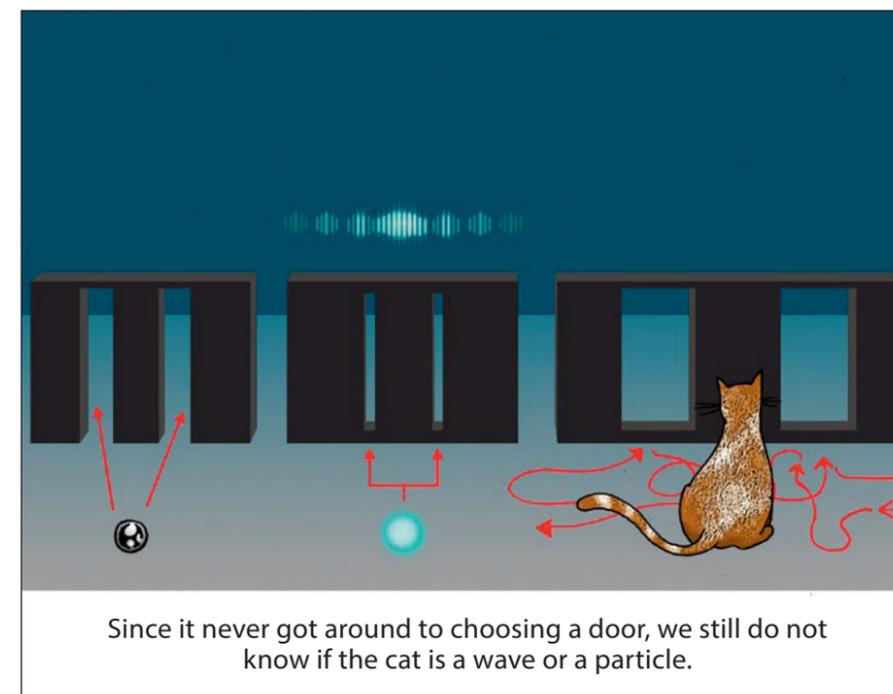
**Emma Pettengale**

(Biochemical Society/Portland Press, UK)

This is well-written and well-researched book. The style is honest and open, full of interesting details about the biology of bees and the history of beekeeping. The research is well presented and at a level that everyone can understand. The more complicated details are well explained and demonstrates how much the author has learned in her first year with bees. It provides an insight into the life of a beginner beekeeper as well as the joy that bees can bring. Well worth reading if you have an interest in bees, or even just looking for a charming story with an interesting theme.

**Nicholas Walker**

(Biochemical Society/Portland Press, UK)



### Duality of Cats

By Benoit Leblanc

(<http://peopleinwhitecoats.blogspot.co.uk>)

### Corrections

Unfortunately, there was an error in the obituary of Eric Barnard published in the December issue of *The Biochemist*. It was incorrectly stated that Professor Barnard was the second Professor of Biochemistry after Ernst Chain and we would like to offer the following correction:

Eric Barnard held the first Rank Chair of Physiological Biochemistry at Imperial College and was instrumental in the continued success of the undergraduate Biochemistry degree when he succeeded Brian Hartley FRS as Head of the Department of Biochemistry in 1979.

Unfortunately, there were also errors in the February issue which we would like to correct. The 'Introducing the New Chair' article should have specified that the piece was introducing the new Chair of the Education, Training and Public Engagement Committee. The 'Day in the life of a Senior Research Scientist' included an erroneous paragraph which been included within the article from the previous issue. The paragraph was:

*"Leaving the charity just over a year ago, I became freelance and I am now working with various clients on science communication projects."*

Portland Press apologises to the authors of these papers and our readers for these errors