

THE AGE OF EMPATHY

FRANS DE WAAL

Are we our brothers' keepers? Do we have an instinct for compassion? Or are we, as is often assumed, only on earth to serve our own survival and interests? In this thought-provoking book, the acclaimed author of *Our Inner Ape* examines how empathy comes naturally to a great variety of animals, including humans.

By studying social behaviors in animals, such as bonding, the herd instinct, the forming of trusting alliances, expressions of consolation, and conflict resolution, Frans de Waal demonstrates that animals—and humans—are “preprogrammed to reach out.” He has found that chimpanzees care for mates that are wounded by leopards, elephants offer “reassuring rumbles” to youngsters in distress, and dolphins support sick companions near the water’s surface to prevent them from drowning. From day one humans have innate sensitivities to faces, bodies, and voices; we’ve been designed to feel for one another. Furthermore, through a better understanding of empathy’s survival value in evolution, de Waal suggests, we can work together toward a more just society based on a more generous and accurate view of human nature.

Written in layman’s prose with a wealth of anecdotes, wry humor, and incisive intelligence, *The Age of Empathy* is essential listening for our embattled times.

Frans de Waal, one of the world’s best-known primatologists, is the C. H. Candler Professor of Psychology at Emory University. He is the author of eight books, including the *New York Times* Notable Book *The Ape and the Sushi Master*. In 2007, *Time* magazine selected him as one of the World’s 100 Most Influential People.

Alan Sklar has been nominated multiple times as a finalist for the APA’s prestigious Audie Awards and has won several *AudioFile* Earphones Awards. He has narrated over 100 audiobooks, including de Waal’s *Our Inner Ape*, a *New York Times* Notable Book of the Year.



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