



# Like a Virgin: How Science Is Redesigning the Rules of Sex

By Aarathi Prasad

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**Like a Virgin: How Science Is Redesigning the Rules of Sex** By Aarathi Prasad

Most cultures tell the tale of a maiden who gives birth untouched by a man. Is this just a myth, or could virgin birth become the way we make babies in the future? In *Like a Virgin*, biologist Aarathi Prasad explores inconceivable ideas about conception, from the “Jesus Christ” lizard’s ability to self-reproduce (it walks on water, too) to the hunt for a real-life virgin mother among geneticists in the 1950s. Prasad then transports us to the maverick laboratories that today are inventing the equivalent of “non-sexual selection”, from egg-fertilizing computer chips to artificial wombs for men. This adventurous romp to the frontiers of reproductive science will forever change the way you think about sex and parenthood. Aarathi Prasad is a biologist and science writer. She has appeared on television and radio, including as host of the BBC documentary “The Quest for a Virgin Birth,” and written for publications such as *Wired*, *New Scientist*, and *The Guardian*. A single mother, she previously worked in research genetics at Imperial College, London. This is her first book.

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

"Think of her as the female equivalent of Brian Cox making science accessible for the masses... Entertaining and provocative, this promises to change the way you think about sex." Stylist "A fascinating examination of a future that may not be too distant, as well as an account of historical misconceptions about conception." Kirkus Reviews "[Prasad's] elegantly written romp through the science and history of conception is conceivably as much fun as you'll ever have thinking about sex without working up a sweat." Publishers Weekly

#### From the Back Cover

**Aarathi Prasad** is a biologist and science writer. She has appeared on TV and radio programmes, including as presenter of Channel 4's controversial 'Is It Better to Be Mixed Race?' and 'Brave New World with Stephen Hawking', as well as BBC Radio 4's 'The Quest for Virgin Birth', and written for Wired, the Guardian, and many other publications. Previously a cancer genetics researcher at Imperial College London, she subsequently moved into the worlds of science communication and policy, in areas including passage of the human-animal chimaera stem-cell bill in the UK Parliament.

A single mother, *Dr. Prasad* lives in London.

#### About the Author

Aarathi Prasad is a biologist and science writer. She has appeared on TV and radio programmes, including as presenter of Channel 4's controversial Is It Better to Be Mixed Race? and Brave New World with Stephen Hawking. Previously a cancer genetics researcher at Imperial College London, she subsequently moved out of the lab and into the worlds of science communication and policy, in areas including the passage in the UK Parliament of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008. A single mother, Dr Prasad lives in London.

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**Edward McClung:**

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