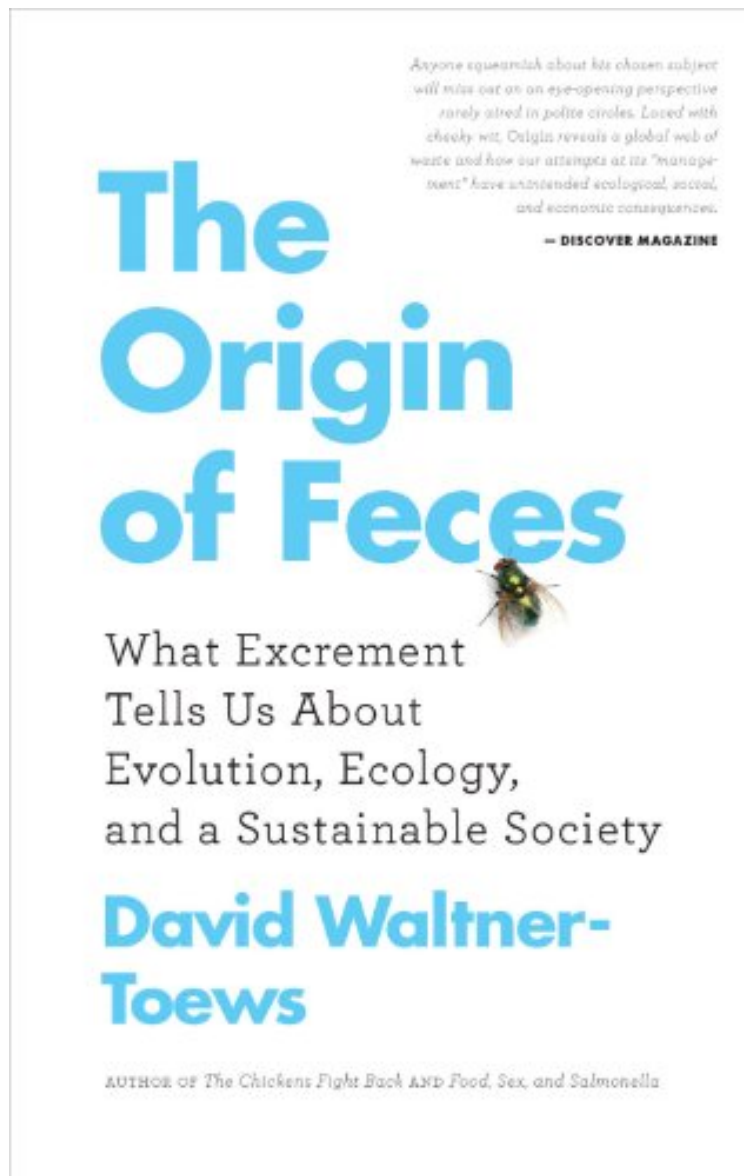


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# The Origin of Feces: What Excrement Tells Us About Evolution, Ecology, and a Sustainable Society

David Waltner-Toews

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David Waltner-Toews : The Origin of Feces: What Excrement Tells Us About Evolution, Ecology, and a Sustainable Society before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Origin of Feces: What Excrement Tells Us About Evolution, Ecology, and a Sustainable Society:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. *It Matters* By kthdimension I really wanted to love this book but the best I can muster is a four-star review. The book starts off promising enough with a witty and amusing description of the language Waltner-Toews will use to describe feces then he gets down and dirty by detailing the ingredients of feces, its origin, its relationship to animals, the (obvious) problems with fecal-oral transmission, its disposal into a toilet, and, finally, a "What's Next?" sort of conclusion. As other reviewers have noted, the writing is generally witty and it's clear the author has a sense of humor about the subject (how could he not?!) but sometimes the prose dragged on and I found myself skimming to the end of the chapter. That quibble aside, though, you should finish the book with an appreciation for the role of feces in the life cycle and the complexity surrounding it. To quote Waltner-Toews, "When we eat, we are taking a gift from the biosphere. When we s\*\*t, we are giving back. Our eating and defecating behavior says far more than any voting behavior about what kinds of citizens we are on this planet. This is why, fundamentally, s\*\*t matters" (p. 64).

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. *The Story Of A Material That Will Always Be With Us* By Frederick S. Goethel Right off the bat, the title of the book is pure genius and gives the reader an idea of the sense of humor of the author. Although an accomplished scientist and a serious researcher, the author writes it a style that can cause you to laugh about scat. The book is an overview of feces, which might better be called excrement. And while we may think of it in more modern terms, as soon as cellular life began, so too did the excretion of waste products. The author takes us on that journey, the importance of excretion to cellular life and the problems that the amount of excrement is causing in today's world. Well written and humorous, any student of biology (or anyone with a bizarre sense of humor) will enjoy this book!

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. *Feces!* By Bob Bellamy This is a funny, interesting, and a great source of knowledge about a subject most often not spoken about in polite society. If you want a good and illuminating read about nature, buy this book.

An entertaining and enlightening exploration of why waste matters, this cultural history explores an often ignored subject matter and makes a compelling argument for a deeper understanding of human and animal waste. Approaching the subject from a variety of perspectives—evolutionary, ecological, and cultural—this examination shows how integral excrement is to biodiversity, agriculture, public health, food production and distribution, and global ecosystems. From primordial ooze, dung beetles, bug frass, cat scats, and flush toilets to global trade, pandemics, and energy, this is the awesome, troubled, uncensored story of feces.

"[A]stonishingly readable and interesting." --"Svenska Dagbladet" About the Author David Waltner-Toews is a veterinarian and epidemiologist. He is the author of "The Chickens Fight Back: Pandemic Panics and Deadly Diseases That Jump from Animals to People" and "Food, Sex and Salmonella: Why Our Food Is Making Us Sick." He lives in Kitchener, Ontario.