



# The Chemistry Between Us: Love, Sex, and the Science of Attraction

By Larry Young PhD, Brian Alexander

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**The Chemistry Between Us: Love, Sex, and the Science of Attraction** By Larry Young PhD, Brian Alexander

**How much control do we have over love? Much less than we like to think. All that mystery, all that poetry, all those complex behaviors surrounding human bonding leading to the most life-changing decisions we'll ever make, are unconsciously driven by a few molecules in our brains.**

How does love begin? How can two strangers come to the conclusion that it would not only be pleasant to share their lives, but that they *must* share them? How can a man say he loves his wife, yet still cheat on her? Why do others stay in relationships even after the romance fades? How is it possible to fall in love with the “wrong” person? How do people come to have a “type”?

Physical attraction, jealousy, infidelity, mother-infant bonding—all the behaviors that so often leave us befuddled—are now being teased out of the fog of mystery thanks to today’s social neuroscience. Larry Young, one of the world’s leading experts in the field, and journalist Brian Alexander explain how those findings apply to you.

Drawing on real human stories and research from labs around the world, *The Chemistry Between Us* is a bold attempt to create a “grand unified theory” of love. Some of the mind-blowing insights include:

- Love can get such a grip on us because it is, literally, an addiction.
- To a woman falling in love, a man is like her baby.
- Why it’s false to say society makes gender, and how it’s possible to have the body of one gender and the brain of another.
- Why some people are more likely to cheat than others.
- Why we sometimes truly can’t resist temptation.

Young and Alexander place their revelations into historical, political, and social contexts. In the process, they touch on everything from gay marriage to why single-mother households might not be good for society. *The Chemistry Between*

*Us* offers powerful insights into love, sex, gender, sexual orientation, and family life that will prove to be enlightening, controversial, and thought provoking.

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## **Editorial Review**

### Review

"Combine a first-class neuroscientist like Young, director of Emory University's Center for Translational Social Neuroscience, and an award-winning science journalist like Alexander, and the result is likely to be an engaging book about cutting edge science. They do a wonderful job of mixing and matching human studies with those of other animals to explain how chemicals influence and, at times, control behavior associated with sex, love, and longing."

—*Publishers Weekly*

"Why do we drunk-dial our exes? Why do strippers make more money when they are ovulating? Why do fools fall in love? These are some of the questions explored by Young (Psychiatry/Emory Univ.) and Alexander (*America Unzipped: In Search of Sex and Satisfaction*, 2008). The authors argue that the causes are related to the potent, sometimes irresistible, chemical cocktails our bodies produce. In interviews with scientists of all stripes (psychiatrists, neuroscientists, researchers), Young and Alexander examine their ideas and how they pertain to us, often illuminating their explanations with funny, and sometimes raunchy, anecdotes... the book is sure to hook even casual science readers with its subject, because, as Young and Alexander point out, "the combination of erotic desire and the love it leads to may be the most powerful force on earth. An entertaining overview of the science of physical attraction."—*Kirkus Reviews*

"This lively book by a great neuroscientist and a savvy writer is the first popular account to tie together what we have learned about the chemistry of sex, love, and family bonds. Progress in this field has been nothing short of breathtaking, and Larry Young is recognized as its leading pioneer. The way our brains react when boy meets girl determines the stability of marriage and the future of the human family."

—FRANS DE WAAL, C.H. Candler Professor of Psychology at Emory University and author of *The Age of Empathy*

"...One wild and entertaining ride. The prose in *The Chemistry Between Us* is lively and fun – and provides a fresh and unapologetically pointed analysis on what understanding the neurobiological correlates of love may mean for both our relationships and our culture."

—Kayt Sukel, *New Scientist*

"If you've ever been curious—and let's face it, we all have—about the intricate dance of biology and behavior that both brings men and women together and pushes them apart, then *The Chemistry Between Us* is the book for you. Authors Larry Young and Brian Alexander explore questions as gentle as parenting and as edgy as sexual addiction with consistent style, humor, and insight. The result is a story that's fun, fascinating, and, finally, insightful."

—DEBORAH BLUM, Pulitzer Prize winner; author of *Sex on the Brain*, *Love at Goon Park*, and *The Poisoner's Handbook*

“Nothing fascinates us more than why we fall in love and what makes us choose that particular person. *The Chemistry Between Us* sheds light on just this mysterious phenomenon with a thorough look at the neuroscience and psychology of the process. Whether you have a desire for better intellectual understanding or a personal curiosity as to why you or your partner do what you do, this book is a super-enjoyable class in love, sex, and all its dark mysteries. A fascinating and stimulating read!”

—**GAIL SALTZ, MD, NBC *Today* show contributor and clinical associate professor of psychiatry, New York-Presbyterian Hospital**

“Dr. Young is one of the science world’s most respected authorities on the chemistry underlying the most complicated and beloved interactions of our species. The insight and candor he and Mr. Alexander provide in this simultaneously entertaining and compelling book will impress both novice and scientific aficionado alike. What an intellectually and emotionally satisfying exploration!”

—**MAYIM BIALIK, PhD, CLEC, actress on CBS’s *The Big Bang Theory* and author of *Beyond the Sting***

“You may not need this book in order to meet the love of your life but if you are head over heels in love with someone this book will go a long way toward telling you what has happened in your head and body to make this so.”

—**ARTHUR CAPLAN, PhD, William F. and Virginia Connolly Mitty professor and head of the Division of Bioethics, NYU Langone Medical Center**

About the Author

**Larry Young, PhD**, is the director of the Center for Translational Social Neuroscience, the William P. Timmie Professor of Psychiatry at Emory University School of Medicine, and chief of the Division of Behavioral Neuroscience and Psychiatric Disorders at Yerkes National Primate Research Center. He lives in Atlanta.

**Brian Alexander** is an award-winning journalist and the author of several books, including *Rapture: How Biotech Became the New Religion* and *America Unzipped: The Search for Sex and Satisfaction*. He lives in San Diego.

## **Users Review**

**From reader reviews:**

**Joshua Mack:**

Have you spare time for a day? What do you do when you have far more or little spare time? That's why, you can choose the suitable activity for spend your time. Any person spent all their spare time to take a walk, shopping, or went to typically the Mall. How about open or perhaps read a book eligible *The Chemistry Between Us: Love, Sex, and the Science of Attraction*? Maybe it is to become best activity for you. You realize beside you can spend your time along with your favorite's book, you can cleverer than before. Do you agree with their opinion or you have other opinion?

**Craig Baker:**

Playing with family in the park, coming to see the sea world or hanging out with good friends is thing that usually you might have done when you have spare time, after that why you don't try issue that really opposite from that. 1 activity that make you not experience tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you are ride on and with addition info. Even you love The Chemistry Between Us: Love, Sex, and the Science of Attraction, you can enjoy both. It is great combination right, you still want to miss it? What kind of hang type is it? Oh come on its mind hangout people. What? Still don't get it, oh come on its known as reading friends.

**Kenneth Allen:**

The Chemistry Between Us: Love, Sex, and the Science of Attraction can be one of your starter books that are good idea. We all recommend that straight away because this book has good vocabulary that will increase your knowledge in terminology, easy to understand, bit entertaining but nevertheless delivering the information. The copy writer giving his/her effort to set every word into satisfaction arrangement in writing The Chemistry Between Us: Love, Sex, and the Science of Attraction nevertheless doesn't forget the main stage, giving the reader the hottest and based confirm resource information that maybe you can be among it. This great information can certainly drawn you into brand-new stage of crucial imagining.

**Gail Nugent:**

A number of people said that they feel bored when they reading a book. They are directly felt this when they get a half parts of the book. You can choose the actual book The Chemistry Between Us: Love, Sex, and the Science of Attraction to make your own reading is interesting. Your personal skill of reading expertise is developing when you including reading. Try to choose basic book to make you enjoy to see it and mingle the opinion about book and reading through especially. It is to be 1st opinion for you to like to available a book and read it. Beside that the e-book The Chemistry Between Us: Love, Sex, and the Science of Attraction can to be your friend when you're sense alone and confuse in doing what must you're doing of this time.

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