



# **The Descent of Love: Darwin and the Theory of Sexual Selection in American Fiction, 1871-1926**

*Bert Bender*

Download now

[Click here](#) if your download doesn't start automatically

# The Descent of Love: Darwin and the Theory of Sexual Selection in American Fiction, 1871-1926

*Bert Bender*

**The Descent of Love: Darwin and the Theory of Sexual Selection in American Fiction, 1871-1926** Bert Bender

Upon its publication in 1871, Charles Darwin's *The Descent of Man and Selection in Relation to Sex* sent shock waves through the scientific community and the public at large. In an original and persuasive study, Bert Bender demonstrates that it is this treatise on sexual selection, rather than any of Darwin's earlier works on evolution, that provoked the most immediate and vigorous response from American fiction writers. These authors embraced and incorporated Darwin's theories, insights, and language, creating an increasingly dark and violent view of sexual love in American realist literature.

In *The Descent of Love*, Bender carefully rereads the works of William Dean Howells, Henry James, Elizabeth Stuart Phelps, Sarah Orne Jewett, Kate Chopin, Harold Frederic, Charles W. Chesnutt, Edith Wharton, and Ernest Hemingway, teasing from them a startling but utterly convincing preoccupation with questions of sexual selection. Competing for readership as novelists who best grasped the "real" nature of human love, these writers also participated in a heated social debate over racial and sexual differences and the nature of sex itself. Influenced more by *The Descent of Man* than by the *Origin of Species*, Bender's novelists built upon Darwin's anthropological and zoological materials to anatomize their character's courtship behavior, returning consistently to concerns with physical beauty, natural dominance, and the power to select a mate.

Bringing the resources of the history of science and intellectual history to this, the first full-length study of the impact of Darwin's theories in American literature, Bender revises accepted views of social Darwinism, American literary realism, and modernism in American literature, forever changing our perceptions of courtship and sexual interaction in American fiction from 1871 to 1926 and beyond.

 [Download The Descent of Love: Darwin and the Theory of Sexu ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Descent of Love: Darwin and the Theory of Se ...pdf](#)

## **Download and Read Free Online The Descent of Love: Darwin and the Theory of Sexual Selection in American Fiction, 1871-1926 Bert Bender**

---

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Kevin Ortiz:**

Precisely why? Because this *The Descent of Love: Darwin and the Theory of Sexual Selection in American Fiction, 1871-1926* is an unordinary book that the inside of the guide waiting for you to snap this but latter it will shock you with the secret this inside. Reading this book alongside it was fantastic author who have write the book in such amazing way makes the content within easier to understand, entertaining way but still convey the meaning fully. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this nowadays or you going to regret it. This excellent book will give you a lot of benefits than the other book have got such as help improving your ability and your critical thinking way. So , still want to delay having that book? If I had been you I will go to the e-book store hurriedly.

#### **Louis McCarthy:**

This *The Descent of Love: Darwin and the Theory of Sexual Selection in American Fiction, 1871-1926* is great publication for you because the content that is full of information for you who also always deal with world and possess to make decision every minute. This book reveal it information accurately using great coordinate word or we can claim no rambling sentences within it. So if you are read it hurriedly you can have whole facts in it. Doesn't mean it only will give you straight forward sentences but hard core information with splendid delivering sentences. Having *The Descent of Love: Darwin and the Theory of Sexual Selection in American Fiction, 1871-1926* in your hand like having the world in your arm, details in it is not ridiculous one. We can say that no publication that offer you world throughout ten or fifteen second right but this book already do that. So , it is good reading book. Hey there Mr. and Mrs. stressful do you still doubt this?

#### **Joel Jones:**

The book untitled *The Descent of Love: Darwin and the Theory of Sexual Selection in American Fiction, 1871-1926* contain a lot of information on the item. The writer explains her idea with easy approach. The language is very straightforward all the people, so do not really worry, you can easy to read this. The book was compiled by famous author. The author gives you in the new era of literary works. You can read this book because you can keep reading your smart phone, or gadget, so you can read the book with anywhere and anytime. If you want to buy the e-book, you can start their official web-site in addition to order it. Have a nice learn.

#### **Robert Thompson:**

Some people said that they feel uninterested when they reading a guide. They are directly felt it when they get a half regions of the book. You can choose the particular book *The Descent of Love: Darwin and the Theory of Sexual Selection in American Fiction, 1871-1926* to make your current reading is interesting. Your current skill of reading expertise is developing when you including reading. Try to choose very simple book to make you enjoy to study it and mingle the opinion about book and examining especially. It is to be

1st opinion for you to like to wide open a book and examine it. Beside that the guide *The Descent of Love: Darwin and the Theory of Sexual Selection in American Fiction, 1871-1926* can to be your new friend when you're really feel alone and confuse with the information must you're doing of these time.

**Download and Read Online *The Descent of Love: Darwin and the Theory of Sexual Selection in American Fiction, 1871-1926* Bert Bender #BQSY5HML38P**

## **Read The Descent of Love: Darwin and the Theory of Sexual Selection in American Fiction, 1871-1926 by Bert Bender for online ebook**

The Descent of Love: Darwin and the Theory of Sexual Selection in American Fiction, 1871-1926 by Bert Bender Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read The Descent of Love: Darwin and the Theory of Sexual Selection in American Fiction, 1871-1926 by Bert Bender books to read online.

### **Online The Descent of Love: Darwin and the Theory of Sexual Selection in American Fiction, 1871-1926 by Bert Bender ebook PDF download**

**The Descent of Love: Darwin and the Theory of Sexual Selection in American Fiction, 1871-1926 by Bert Bender Doc**

**The Descent of Love: Darwin and the Theory of Sexual Selection in American Fiction, 1871-1926 by Bert Bender Mobipocket**

**The Descent of Love: Darwin and the Theory of Sexual Selection in American Fiction, 1871-1926 by Bert Bender EPub**