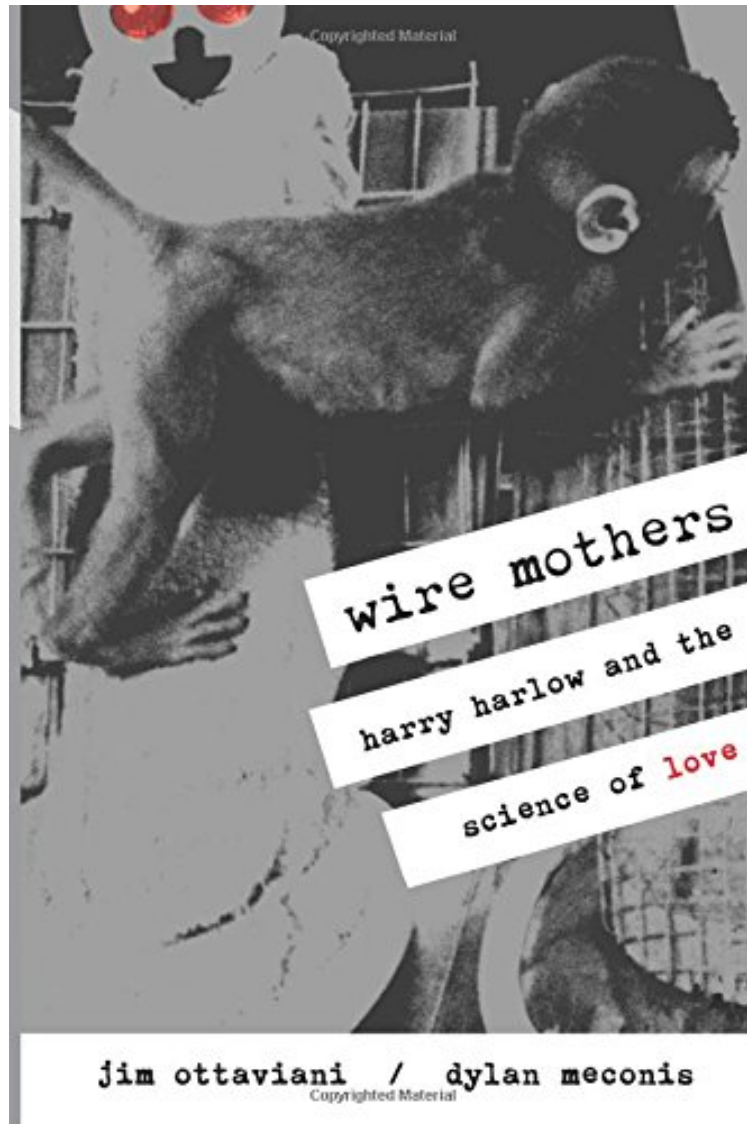


(Download) Wire Mothers Inanimate Arms: Harry Harlow And The Science Of Love

# Wire Mothers Inanimate Arms: Harry Harlow And The Science Of Love

*Jim Ottaviani*

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**Jim Ottaviani : Wire Mothers Inanimate Arms: Harry Harlow And The Science Of Love** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Wire Mothers Inanimate Arms: Harry Harlow And The Science Of Love:

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. A nuanced, educational, and entertaining graphic novel By oldtakul

really don't understand the hugely negative reviews for this. It's based on extensive research, as I would expect from Ottaviani, including Harlow's own autobiography in both published and unpublished forms. 'Wire Mothers' takes you through a tour of Harry Harlow's lab just before the famous CBS 'Mother Love' episode of 'Conquest'. At this time, B.F. Skinner's operant conditioning theory was king - everything and everyone was a black box, to the point that you don't even really comprehend or understand the words you are uttering - you are just regurgitating patterns you were trained in as a child. Love or affection were meaningless, because such concepts are null concepts to mindless automatons. It was the prevailing climate of the day, as strange as it sounds now. Harry Harlow thought this was ridiculous, so he engaged in a series of now painful to contemplate experiments with baby rhesus monkeys where he provided them with wire 'mothers' with bottles (food) and wire mothers with plush carpet skins (affection) or raised them with no mothers whatsoever, then subjected them to various stresses to see how they'd react. As the afterword says, this is cruel, but someone 'had' to do it and by the standards of the day it was no worse than subjecting minerals to acids. I really thought this was quite sympathetic to Harlow. He's pictured here as a nuanced, conflicted, but principled David who beat down the B.F. Skinner Goliath of the day with a simple, yet utterly compelling series of experiments. The presentation is clever, the art is appropriately realistic yet stylized. It portrays him as a very (likeable) human being, which I guess isn't acceptable to people who need everything to be in broad swathes of good/evil white/black paragon/fiend. But science is never so clean. Really, if you were going to complain, it should be about the caricaturization of Skinner and Watson (even though it's accurate!). This and all of Ottaviani's books are excellent windows into the real world of science, if you can handle it, and I'm sorry that I waited so long to read this because I stupidly trusted other reviews. I read about this in psychology classes, of course, but it never really hit home so well until now. Honestly, if I have any complaint at all it's that this is 'only' 80 pages, so for \$10 you get a single concept well elucidated instead of 300 pages of dense text, but there's something to be said for quality. 1 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Harry Harlow By Cynthia Wimeri was really disappointed in this book. The cartoon format is interesting, but confusing about people and events involved. i was a graduate student in psychology at the time Harlow's work was becoming famous, and this account doesn't gibe with my impressions at the time. 0 of 12 people found the following review helpful. BUYER BEWARE By M. C. Eisgruber If you plan to use this book for reference material, forget it! It is merely a comic book that portrays Harlow as a disturbed individual, speculating as to why he was obsessed with love. It does not appear to provide fact based info that would be necessary for a research information.

Psychologists know best, of course, and in the 1950s they warned parents about the dangers of too much love. Besides, what was "love" anyway? Just a convenient name for children seeking food and adults seeking sex. It took an outsider scientist to challenge it. When Harry Harlow began his experiments on mother love he was more than just an outside the mainstream, though. He was a deeply unhappy man who knew in his gut the truth about what love — and its absence — meant, and set about to prove it. His experiments and results shocked the world, and *Wire Mothers Inanimate Arms* will shock you as well.

From Publishers Weekly This nonfiction graphic novel retelling psychologist Harry Harlow's famous experiments is as disturbing as it is excellent. We'll show you what love looks like—and what it does, says the young researcher, as he turns to TV to make his case after regular scientists reject his experiments. Harlow showed that rhesus monkeys preferred the soft, cloth stuffed-animal mother over wire surrogates, even when nursed by the wire doll. The famous images of the scary cloth mother and the even scarier wire mother has great cultural weight, but the real drama of the story Ottaviani tells is the contemporary scientists who won't admit the word love into their clinical language. Harlow's journey is tinged with subtle class and immigrant issues—the big-jawed, jowly figures, drawn with meaty shadows, express these divisions wonderfully, and help give Harlow emotional weight as he simultaneously finds success and sinks into alcoholism. The repetition of the term proximity, how scientists explained away love, is chilling, and the largely forgotten Skinner boxes and the theories behind them give the work a sense of deep foreboding as a cautionary tale of how behaviorists once tried to declare affection to be scientifically unsound. (July) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. About the Author About the storytellers: All of Jim Ottaviani's books have been nominated for multiple awards, including Eisners ALA Popular Paperback of the Year, and they also receive critical praise in publications ranging from *The Comics Journal* to *Physics World* to *Entertainment Weekly* to *Discover Magazine*, and get national broadcast attention in outlets such as NPR's *Morning Edition* and the *CBS Morning Show*. Dylan Meconis was an original contributor to the groundbreaking *Flight* series and a nominee for the Friends of Lulu Kim Yale award. She is also a launch contributor to *Girlamatic*, a member of the *Pants Press* collective and *Mercury Studio*, and has been blogged just about everywhere.