

'In this literary field trip to the landscapes where our ancestors once lived, Finlayson tells the real story of the "aquatic ape".'

Alice Roberts, *Professor of Public Engagement in Science, University of Birmingham*

We are improbable primates. We left the others eating fruit in the forest while we set off into the growing regions of savannah, developing the habit of walking on two legs, and varying our diet with meat. Over a central belt of the Earth the climate was drying, and sources of water were becoming scattered. Our evolution was driven by and played out in the context of access to water.

In this intriguing and provocative book, Clive Finlayson gives a new view of human evolution which draws on ecology to interpret the fossil evidence. It is an account of a single human species, split into groups that tackled the challenge of new landscapes as they spread across the world. Without water, we quickly die; and it was the need to reach water, he argues, that shaped our bodies and drove the development of our brains.

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS

www.oup.com

ISBN 978-0-19-965879-4



9 780199 658794

£16.99 RRP \$27.95 USA