

Not Even if You're the Last Male Rhino on Earth

By Stella Reneke

I cried when I saw 'Wonder Woman' in theaters last year. If I believed in a god, I'd worship her.

Even having grown up with more strong female role models in the surrounding media than any generation before me, something about Gal Gadot's Diana Prince and her island of warrior women was more deeply impactful than I ever imagined it would be.

Unfortunately, in much the same way that in my eyes it debunked the existence of God, modern science has smudged some of the sheen from Wonder Woman's golden armor.

One of the most quoted lines in the movie is when Diana tells her male companion that "men are essential for procreation, but when it comes to pleasure, unnecessary." As it turns out, we don't even need them for that.

Last week, National Geographic, among others, reported that the last male northern white rhino had died at the age of 45. He was ancient by rhino standards, and is survived by a daughter and granddaughter, the only two members of the species left living.

Yet all is not lost for these creatures who roamed the earth for millions of years before humans hunted them to near extinction. International reproduction specialists have plans to use preserved sperm and extracted eggs from northern white rhinos, living and dead, to perform in-vitro fertilization (IVF) and impregnate female southern white rhinos to re-stimulate the northern population. In short, even if there are no males left to breed, the females may yet save the day.

So what I'm hearing at the end of it all is that the next time a man thinks he's clever and insists that I would *have* to sleep with him if he were the very last man on Earth, the answer, in fact, is still "no".

On the off chance that the apocalypse catches me in a good mood and I decide that mankind deserves a *second* chance to kill the whole planet, I need only cite the iconic lyrics of singer-songwriter P!nk's hit song, "U + Ur Hand": it's just you and your hand tonight, and after you die, as long as I pull those tissues out of the trash, I can save the world by myself. Wonder Woman would be proud.