



The Animal Review: The Genius, Mediocrity, and Breathtaking Stupidity That Is Nature

Jacob Lentz , Steve Nash

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Ever since our ancestors first set eyes on a woolly mammoth and agreed that it needed hunting, human beings have been making judgments about animals. The king cobra: That's an A-plus animal. The garden snail? D-minus. On a good day.

In *Animal Review*, Jacob Lentz and Steve Nash give authoritative listings and ratings of dozens of your favorite (and least-favorite) animals. Expanded from their popular blog, the entries mix fascinating animal facts with hilarious assessments, set off with brilliantly captioned photos and enlightening charts and graphs. It's a perfect gift for animal lovers of any age, with sophisticated but kid-friendly humor and tons of interesting information.

The Animal Review: The Genius, Mediocrity, and Breathtaking Stupidity That Is Nature Details

Date : Published March 30th 2010 by Bloomsbury USA

ISBN : 9781608190256

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Format : Hardcover 144 pages

Genre : Nonfiction, Humor, Animals, Science, Environment, Nature, Science Nature

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Melissa says

Excerpt:

The definitive, highly biased, and frequently accurate report card on evolution's illustrious (and sometimes absurd) 3.5-billion-year career.

gift for animal lovers of all ages.

I won this book in a first reads and i have to say i fairly enjoyed it. It's certainly not a long book, nor one that requires constant attention. It's one where it's best place is on a coffee table or reading rack at an office where someone can pick it up and turn to any random page and start reading. Immensely humorous the authors that learning about various in a more entertaining way than most fact books about animals. It should be noted though that some basic knowledge of some animals featured in this book in needed. I say this because in their "Great White Shark" section they repeatedly state how much of a killer it is, how death by shark is the highest death rate, and that you'll know one person whose been killed by a shark in your life. These things are completely untrue and merely stated in a humorous notion. If you have ever watched "Shark Week" on "The Discovery Channel" you'd know you have a greater chance of being struck by lightning than killed by a shark. Though notably short i found this book to be wholly entertaining and a keeper. My one critic is that the authors have not scored the rabbit. Being a bunny mommy of six i was hoping to find how they rate rabbits among the animal kingdom.

Diane Pollock says

Hilarious romp through the animal kingdom! Very fun and engaging read, that was not only entertaining but also educational. I was inspired to research many animals further. For example...the sea cucumber. I had to learn more about how it ejects it's own organs through it's anus! The photos were charming and the prose delightful. My only regret was that it was too short...perhaps there will be a sequel?

Sandi says

This little volume came to me via the FirstReads program. It had me laughing out loud. It will probably take me quite a while to finish it. Both my son and my husband think they are more worthy of it than I am and it has found it's way to the man-library, aka the bathroom.

karen says

i have never been more let down by a book in my life.

which is, i suppose, something to be grateful for; some people get on streaks of books that they hate. at least this was only a casual at-home-reading book that didn't waste too much of my time.

but i still resent the time it did take.

this should have been the perfect companion book to f.u. penguin: another book giving animals the what-for, coasting on their looks and making us gurggle over their "feets" and their oversized manga eyes or the way they do "cute little human things with their hands". they reduce us, they weaken us with their soft fur and helpless appearance. i sat watching ducks paddle around in a pond last night, laughing over the way they were dodging turtles and eating bread from a kid's hand and i felt all warm inside. someone could have come up behind me and pushed me in the water and i would have been totally defenseless.

you see what they do to me.

this book was, i thought, a way to once again put those animals in their places; to rate them based on performance, usefulness, intelligence, whatever, to rank the animal kingdom in a way that would discount any emotional bias where they would be judged on a strictly scientific basis. but funny.

and this is why we must always read the author's credentials before we read our books. a writer for the jimmy kimmel show and an advertising writer. huh.

this man is many things, but funny ain't one of them.

not only does this book not hit the funny button, it also presents misinformation! "the alpaca is much smaller than the llama, coming in at about 125 pounds and around four feet tall at adulthood, whereas a llama may weigh as much as forty thousand pounds and be well over seven hundred feet tall" wow. this is when i started hating the book (page 32) that is not even a remotely humorous sentence, and it undermines the fact **RIGHT ON THE PRECEDING PAGE** that i thought was cool, but now i don't know if it is even true: "as a defense mechanism, some species of ants explode their own heads in a shower of toxic chemicals" now i actually have to do **RESEARCH** to find out if it is true. or read this other book, which i was planning on doing anyway.

i also don't understand the grading system. why does the hippo get a "d"?? it seems like everything the authors were (hilariously) claiming about the hippo makes it a "better" animal from an evolutionary standpoint, because it is a killer that people *forget* is a killer. cuteness camouflage. that, to me, makes it a more "successful" animal.

if you need a book to make you feel better about the way animals take us over and think they are soooooooo cute, read f.u. penguin. and that is what i give this book: a big f, followed by a u.

additionally, this is what i wish animals would do to the authors:

[image error]

(**spoilers:** michelle, the octopus got an "a", montambo, the snail got a d-minus, fonso, the poison dart frog got an a-minus, greg, the pigeon got a b.)

Keri says

This book looks really funny.

Donna says

Great book -- I loved it! I was expecting a book filled with facts and figures and things like that. This book has those but it's written in such a way that it is fun to read, but it's not overwhelming. It is easy to read and has some subtle humor in it that keeps you smiling as you learn all these strange facts about these animals.

Esther says

I had a hard time enjoying this book because the authors seem to be trying to hard to be funny at the expense of factual truth. While the book might be a good one to have for people to read in the bathroom, just as any joke book would belong there, I was disappointed by this item. One of the authors wrote for a late night television show and clearly tries to put that talent to use in this book but fails miserably. There are funny parts, true, but the book provides no insights into the animal kingdom as I had hoped it would. Rather, it uses wrong facts and observations about how society views the animals (pandas got a bad grade because they are cuddly and sit around all day in zoos) that make me want to call the authors up and ask if they did ANY research in making the book. OK I'm done with my rant.

I know there is an inherent social pressure to give good reviews for books one receives for free as a first read. But I just couldn't stomach glossing this one over.

amelia says

I think this is the funniest thing I have ever read. Take from that what you will.

Nick Black says

lots of fun, but nothing that wasn't on the blog.

Bethany Miller says

I received this book through the Goodreads First reads program.

The Animal Review is very much a book of the information age. Reading this outgrowth of Jacob Lentz and Steve Nash's blog is as low-commitment as browsing a website. They divide the animal kingdom into four common sense categories (land, sky, water and other) and, after a brief discussion of positive and negative attributes, assign a letter grade.

Set this book on your bedside table, kitchen counter or anywhere else you can pick it up for a few moments' amusement and lay it down guilt-free. This is a low maintenance book. If you can't commit the full three minutes to reading an entry, flip open to any page, look at a graphic and read the hilarious caption. Bam! Instant funny in less time than it takes to switch on your laptop and log on.

There is no substitute for nestling into a favorite armchair and escaping for a few hours into the intricate landscape of a great novel, but if you're pressed for time The Review offers a multitude of brief diversions. I thoroughly enjoyed daytripping into their world: equal parts scientific insight and witty observation, with just a dash of oddball, juvenile zanyness. I was laughing so hard I barely noticed that I was learning something.

Sharon says

I received an advance copy of this book free as a First-Reads. I didn't know what I was getting into, but I was pleasantly surprised. This was a light and amusing book that I enjoyed. I found myself giggling aloud (which is great because I don't often find anything laugh-out-loud funny). It was a fun combination of wit, sarcasm, and actual factual information. I was entertained, and I learned some fun new vocabulary words at the same time!

Jd032700 says

Won this on Goodreads/Firstreads. It was a funny fast read and I laughed out loud several times. I found it very irreverent which I love. Enjoyed that I was able to read a little at a time. Really liked the book

Holly says

Fun, entertaining, and educational! I thoroughly enjoyed it!

Jocelyn says

I won this book in a give-away contest. I have to say that I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book. And in fact I am loaning it out to friends right now. It is cleverly written by two authors who are experienced in writing comedy. While it is mainly a "fun" read, the authors throw in scientific fact as well. Even for someone who has vast knowledge on animals, there are some real surprises in store. I would recommend this book for any animal lover or any book lover for that matter. It is an easy read that will lighten up your day.

Julia says

This was one book whose concept has charmed me into wondering what was actually found within its pages but unable to ever find anyone who seemed to carry it that I could borrow it from. Fortunately that has changed and I didn't even have to buy the book to find out how much of a waste it would have been if I had bought it for myself.

Although the idea is interesting these two weren't the right ones to see it through for their comedy fell flat and the only laugh I got was from the startled look on my boyfriend's face when they actually mentioned a fact that I had told him before, which he must not have believed me when I told him. Otherwise the book was full of inside jokes trying to refer to popular culture so this book will definitely become obsolete in the near future and making a sad attempt to color animals' intelligence or beings of greatness depending on their own views of what seems to be cool. Basically this is one of those lists that you would find a few grade-school boys would make although the latter would do a lot better job at selection.

Otherwise the book does offer some actual fun facts and truths about animals but with the authors' exaggeration on some points, their bias thinking and attempted adding of humorous anthropomorphism there just isn't too much room to really want to add this book to one's nonfiction collection - even as a stepping stone. All in all it was a sad flop that should have been relegated to digital format only instead of sacrificing poor trees to make its pages.
