



# Monsterology

*Dugald A. Steer*

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**Monsterology** Dugald A. Steer

**A second major volume by the esteemed Dr. Drake — a lavish exploration of fantastical beasts, from yetis to unicorns**

Do krakens really lurk below the ocean waves? Do griffins command the air above? In a fascinating new discovery sure to rival the ground-breaking DRAGONOLOGY, the intrepid Dr. Ernest Drake turns his inquisitive gaze from dragons to other so-called mythical creatures. Included are:

- \* a removable letter from Dr. Drake
- \* multiple foldouts, flaps, and pull-outs
- \* textured "samples," including sea serpent skin and a feather from a winged horse
- \* sundry booklets — including riddles to tell a sphinx
- \* a cabinet of curiosities containing yeti fur, a hippogriff feather, and more

For anyone who has ever wondered whether legendary beasts still wander among us, this lush look at an astounding array of creatures offers everything a true believer would want to know.

## Monsterology Details

Date : Published August 12th 2008 by Candlewick Press (first published January 1st 2008)

ISBN : 9780763639402

Author : Dugald A. Steer

Format : Hardcover 32 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Childrens, Fiction, Mythology

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# From Reader Review *Monsterology* for online ebook

## Hannah Greendale says

This (fiction) compendium of monsters charts the discoveries of the intrepid explorer, Dr. Ernest Drake, who sailed the world in search of seemingly mythical beasts. His record includes beasts of the earth, water, air, and semi-human creatures found around the world, drawing from the mythology of myriad cultures and presenting his findings as fact.

The illusion is heightened by his efforts to separate fact from fiction. "*The purple, man-eating, burrowing giant worm known as the Mongolian death worm,*" for example, is fake according to Dr. Drake, but the Arabian Unicorn is undoubtedly real. The result is a book designed to tickle the imagination, complete with fold-out maps, envelopes, and other tangible items - such as unicorn hair, sea serpent skin, and spell-casting paper - lending an authentic feel to a book of imagined creatures.

Best of all, *Monsterology* closes with a message on proper conduct for aspiring monsterologists and the importance of conservation.

*If I have communicated anything in this book, I hope above all that it has been something of wonder not only of these fabulous beasts but of all the beasts, birds, and fishes that inhabit the Earth. The world is full of amazing beasts and monsters far beyond our ken. They flash through the air and slither through the seas, crawl through the earth and lurk in the woods. But I don't expect you to believe me. Open your eyes and see for yourself. All anyone ever has to do is go out and look!*

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## Melissa Bennett says

I love this book. It is in the same format as the other Ologie books but this one is done up for monsters. How much more fun can that get. I love the way they do this up like a scrapbook/journal. There is a lot of "samples" from the creatures that the author finds especially in the back, there is a section dedicated to the samples found. If you love monsters and/or the Ologie books, I would highly recommend this one!

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## Anna says

Though I think I enjoyed this ology more than the others, I was a little disappointed with the short amount of information given on each creature. There was much more information in the other books.

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## Jasmine says

This fun "reference" book is divided into four sections; Beasts of the Earth, Beasts of Water, Beasts of the Air, and Semi-Human Beasts. It's presented as a field guide to Monsters of the world, lavishly illustrated and

with information on the beasts' food, habitat, appearance, forms of attack or flight, and general notes.

The general idea, is of course, that the Beast of Myth are there for the study of the diligent Monsterologists, and this books will aid them in their pursuit and cataloguing of the Beasts. While most of the Monsters featured are from European Myth, there are also a few choice selections from Asian and modern North American Tales.

The facts and little stories about the beasts in this book were fun and informative. I didn't know that- for example- there were several varieties of unicorn from different parts of the world. However, it was the lovely illustrations that sold it for me. Having the unicorns all wonderfully laid out for perusal and comparison was what made me think wistfully of stories to write where the hero or heroine carried a book like this.

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### **Gulshan Naqvee says**

A magical and fantastic book. It is so full of creativity that every page of the book amazed me. Grab a copy to see what I mean.

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### **Melanie Fair says**

A very interesting book with everything from commonplace myths to those less known about. I'd recommend this to anyone who enjoys mythology. My only regret is that because of how many species there are and how short the book is, it couldn't go into greater detail about the races.

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### **Lindsey says**

This is a beautifully crafted book and one of a series I'm proud to collect for my daughter, who is 5 now, though I know she will enjoy this for years to come. Very imaginative and interesting and we love the "evidence" collection within.

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### **Lady Knight says**

This is a great installment in the "Ology" series. While Eygyptology is still my favorite, Monsterology will definately entertain any child. It contains tons of lift-the-flaps, things to feel (ever wonder what unicorn's hair felt like?), and oodles of mini-books to read along with the main story. This book is as detailed as any of the previous installments and is a must for any fan of the series.

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### **Barbi Faye (The Book Fae) says**

This book is not to be and should not be mixed up with the actual monster book from Harry Potter, that may eat little fingers; this book can answer, do monstrous krakens really lurk below the deep ocean waves? Do

soaring griffins command the air above? A fabulous tome for those who love legendary beasts that still wander among us, this lush and luxurious look at an astounding array of creatures offers everything a true believer would want to know. I love all the ephemera, the tuck in notes and samples and letters!!! A must read and a collectors item.

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### **Kelli says**

My son loves this book but never before have we read it from cover to cover. That is no small feat as the text is tiny and the book is absolutely jammed with facts. An interactive encyclopedia of monsters divided into sections and complete with "specimens", samples, sketches, and illustrations on every page. Tons of fun for elementary-aged kids into unique monsters. This book purports that they are real and presents evidence, habitat information, attack styles, etc. Very impressive presentation and quite well done. 5 stars.

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### **guiltlessreader says**

Awesome interactive book to keep kids busy for hours! A quick review and lots of photos on my blog  
Guiltless Reading

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### **Syd says**

I think it's a true book about monsters. I thought it was wonderful. It has pictures and parts of the amazing beasts for you to feel and examine. It 's a really great book.

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### **Laura (Madsen) McLain says**

Really neat, clever concept, beautiful illustrations. The book is a faux textbook for budding monsterologists and explains how to seek monsters in the wild and care for orphaned baby monsters (i.e., "Unicorns should be fed pomegranate juice until they are five months old"). It very cleverly teaches kids some history, biology, geography and mythology. Each section also includes a homework assignment that might stimulate some real-world learning (i.e., "Begin your study of monster medicine by researching common cat and dog ailments").

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### **Jaime says**

This whole series is amazing. They are very interactive is almost as if you cannot put them down. You have to touch them and play with them even if you can't read the text the book seems appealing to kids of all ages.

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## **Roxanne says**

Delightful. It's a guidebook by a fictional natural historian who traveled around the world to observe monsters in their native habitats. It sorts the monsters by type of habitat or physiological structure so it's easy to navigate. It even included mythological creatures I hadn't heard of before, like the Nue, Japan's version of the chimera. It has plenty of beautiful watercolor and ink illustrations and specimens for the reader to touch are attached on nearly every page.

The only downside is that it has very few examples from the Americas or Africa, relying instead on European and Asian creatures.

I would have loved this as a little kid.

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