



Water Monsters South of the Border

Denver Michaels

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One of Loren Coleman's Top 10 Cryptozoology Books of 2016

<http://www.cryptozoonews.com/czbksof16/>

In his first book, Denver Michaels examined the lake monster phenomenon in the United States and Canada. In this book, Michaels takes us on a trip "South of the Border" to study the myths, legends, folklore, and eyewitness reports of water monsters in Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central & South America.

What parallels can be drawn between the creatures found "South of the Border" and their Canadian and American counterparts?

What are we to make of the Mermaid legends of South America? Could there be dinosaurs roaming the remote reaches of the Amazon? What are "water tigers?" Is the "giant anaconda" a mythical creature, or does it actually exist?

Though many creatures that were feared by native people centuries ago seem to be mythical, what are the ancient myths and legends trying to tell us? Could some of these creatures be based on something that lived in the remote past?

Michaels explores these questions and many others in his work. However, some of the answers may be disturbing...

Water Monsters South of the Border Details

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Author : Denver Michaels

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From Reader Review Water Monsters South of the Border for online ebook

Quanita says

Monsters: Real or Imagined

Michaels' explores the myths and legends of beasts that may actually exist, or be possible hoaxes. He references the television series "monster quest" . If you've seen this show you know they look for proof of creatures, but are never able to find or film them. If you're interested in the legends of Latin America that have influenced art and explorers - this is your book. I won this from Amazon.

Daren says

Available free from Smashwords.

This is a well-researched cryptid book, reporting on sightings and speculating (how can it be more?) on the existence in recent history of 'water monsters south of the border' - as it says in the title! (In cryptozoology, a pseudoscience, a cryptid is an animal whose existence cryptozoologists believe has been suggested but has not been discovered or documented by the scientific community or by direct evidence.)

The book covers three regions in order – South America, Mexico & Central America, and the Caribbean. This is a follow up book from the author of People Are Seeing Something: A Survey of Lake Monsters in the United States and Canada which covered the same topic in the United States and Canada.

The book approaches this topic in a number of ways. For each 'monster' type, the book outlines the common features reported, it describes related local myths and legends, it deals with historic sightings (ie recorded in letters, books, newspapers), it outlines recent sightings, it presents any evidence (photos, video etc) and then draws either a conclusion, or identifies that a conclusion isn't obvious.

As noted in the conclusion section of the book, the monsters can be split into five categories of 'monster' – Giant Snakes; Massive Fish; animals best described as Living Dinosaurs; 'Water Tigers'; and Mythical Creatures.

With some of the monsters, it is not a massive leap to attribute the sightings etc to natural phenomenon, or to another animal. The author however is obviously very open to the possibility of living dinosaurs (or at least living decedents of) or other undiscovered animals. There are some common scenarios across most of the viable locations these potential monsters reside which make the proposition more possible than not (for me at least) – they are remote (generally far from habitation), they are vast areas (be it massive glacial lakes, massive swamp areas or areas like the Amazon), they are hard to access or at least not commonly accessed, there are environments or natural features which provide a difficult to access lair (very deep lakes, very murky waters, underwater tunnels / holes / caves etc).

With a massive bibliography at the rear, and a huge number of endnotes giving references, there is a real legitimacy to this book. While there is speculation and many open ended questions raised, this is the nature of the subject – I found this a very well put together book.

Enjoyable easy and quick read. Four Stars.

Chris says

Loch Ness isn't the only body of water with monsters. In this book, Michaels looks at water monster stories from Central and South America. He does so with a good dose of healthy disbelief. So while he wants the stories to be true, she does not disregard rational reasons.

He does have discussions about the various legends, and at one points, goes off into wondering about if dinosaurs are still around.

Still it is a nice little collection of, at the very least, folklore with good and helpful footnotes.

Alec Kimmel says

I admit to not finishing. I only made it to page 40 before I had to put it down. I thought I would enjoy cryptozoology, but it turned out to not be my cup of tea. Perhaps others will like it more. I will say that I was impressed with Denver's research.
