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Planet Without Apes



Synopsis

"Planet Without Apes" demands that we consider whether we can live with the consequences of wiping our closest relatives off the face of the Earth. Leading primatologist Craig Stanford warns that extinction of the great apes chimpanzees, bonobos, gorillas, and orangutans threatens to become a reality within just a few human generations. We are on the verge of losing the last links to our evolutionary past, and to all the biological knowledge about ourselves that would die along with them. The crisis we face is tantamount to standing aside while our last extended family members vanish from the planet. Stanford sees great apes as not only intelligent but also possessed of a culture: both toolmakers and social beings capable of passing cultural knowledge down through generations. Compelled by his field research to take up the cause of conservation, he is unequivocal about where responsibility for extinction of these species lies. Our extermination campaign against the great apes has been as brutal as the genocide we have long practiced on one another. Stanford shows how complicity is shared by people far removed from apes shrinking habitats. We learn about extinction's complex links with cell phones, European meat eaters, and ecotourism, along with the effects of Ebola virus, poverty, and political instability. Even the most environmentally concerned observers are unaware of many specific threats faced by great apes. Stanford fills us in, and then tells us how we can redirect the course of an otherwise bleak future."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Outstanding book about a very sad topic... how the world is destroying both the Great apes and

their habitat, in so many ways. They are so much like people it is devastating to realize how the human race is killing them off. Stanford knows what he is writing about (he worked with Jane Goodall) and writes very well indeed. A worthwhile read, though, as I say sad.

A terrific book! Dr. Craig Stanford has dedicated his career to the study of great apes, and it shows in this fascinating look at man's closest relatives. He describes the many issues that are threatening gorillas, orangutans, chimpanzees, and bonobos in a no-nonsense yet personal way. The book is a page-turner, and a cutting-edge telling of today's conservation issues.

This book "Planet without Apes" was a disappointment to me because gibbons, the amazing small apes of Asia, are totally omitted. Hence the book title is misleading. It should be "Planet without Great Apes," although my view is that gibbons and siamangs should have had their own section of the book, as they are threatened by hunting (their loud calls unfortunately lead hunters to them) and deforestation, just as are the larger apes. In fact, the rarest of all apes are two gibbon species. And there are so many gibbon species, with their unique songs and behaviors (including monogamy except in a few rare cases). The inside of the book includes four undistinguished black and white photos which makes the presentation unattractive.

Got this book for a class. It was interesting and depressing. Not much you can do to help apes is the theme and tells you all reasons it has come to this. It does make you more aware of materials you buy and the effect it has on the environment, including animals.

I purchased this for school and I am still in the process of using it but all in all it's a very interesting read.

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