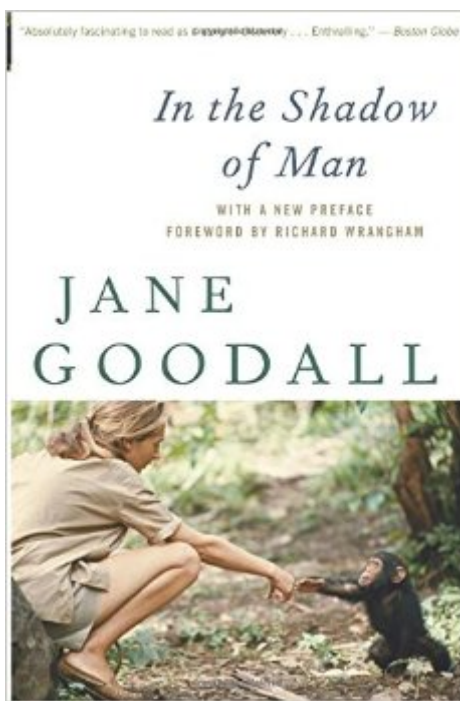


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In The Shadow Of Man



Synopsis

World-renowned primatologist, conservationist, and humanitarian Dr. Jane Goodall's account of her life among the wild chimpanzees of Gombe is one of the most enthralling stories of animal behavior ever written. Her adventure began when the famous anthropologist Dr. Louis Leakey suggested that a long-term study of chimpanzees in the wild might shed light on the behavior of our closest living relatives. Accompanied by only her mother and her African assistants, she set up camp in the remote Gombe Stream Chimpanzee Reserve in Tanzania. For months the project seemed hopeless; out in the forest from dawn until dark, she had but fleeting glimpses of frightened animals. But gradually she won their trust and was able to record previously unknown behavior, such as the use of tools, and even the making of tools, until then believed to be an exclusive skill of man. As she came to know the chimps as individuals, she began to understand their complicated social hierarchy and observed many extraordinary behaviors, which have forever changed our understanding of the profound connection between humans and chimpanzees. *In the Shadow of Man* is one of the Western world's great scientific achievements (Stephen Jay Gould) and a vivid, essential journey of discovery for each new generation of readers.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

IN THE SHADOW OF MAN, first published in 1971, remains one of the most extraordinary observations of chimpanzee behavior in the wild. Goodall begins with the story of how she arrived in Africa and her first days there, but wisely switches the attention from herself to the endangered

chimpanzees she studies. She not only recognizes individuals but learns their distinctive personalities, describing in compelling detail the smallest of moments that illuminate who these great animals are. Unlike most scientists of the time, Goodall documents emotions and complex political behavior, the social hierarchy and parenting abilities, the aggression and the bonds formed between chimps that can only be described as friendships. In eloquent prose, Goodall tells the stories of these chimps - most notably that of Flo and her family - and will forever change the way you view chimpanzees. The book contains several black and white photographs of the chimps, a real treat after getting to "know" these chimps in writing. If you have any interest at all in primates or in animals generally, this is a must-have book.

Like another reviewer, I'm an anthropology student and I had to read this book for a class I'm taking. Never has a book, meant for education, made me both laugh and cry out loud. It was simply wonderful. You will learn a lot about chimpanzees, and I promise you will never watch them in the zoo, in the same way, again. Even if you are not looking to learn about chimpanzee development and behavior, the book is excellent on a purely entertainment level. Even though this book is a required reading, I was so impressed that I'm going out to buy her other books... just out of interest.

The pleasure that Ms. Goodall had placed and received in sharing her life with chimpanzees is conveyed effortlessly in this book and touches you quite easily. I started reading this book not being too sure about what I was doing, since to know about the habits of these primates is not exactly among my list of favorite topics. So I just started browsing and before I knew it, sixty or eighty pages had gone by as well as my possibilities of getting up early in the morning. The author will guide you through the complex social structures in which chimpanzees live to the very detailed and amazing details of their everyday life. For example that they would eat gladly a human baby if given the chance. But more important she makes you care for their lives not as a consequence of a higher scientific purpose, but simply because the more that we relate to nature the more we are embraced in its blessings.

I read this book a long time ago and have looked into it many times since. It's an entertaining read that teaches us not just about chimpanzees but also about human nature and behavior. If you pay attention to this book, you'll be a better person for it!

I enjoy virtually following Ms Goodall into the forests and learning about the actions of the species

she continues to study. How wonderful--for her and us--for her to have learned so early in her life just which species she wanted to study. Her contributions to the study of primates in their natural habitat continues, and her explanations of such are a joy to read. Highly recommended.

Jane Goodall is a unique individual whose work should be studied by those who think that the animal rights people don't have a clue. Her efforts at gaining the trust of chimpanzee's in their natural habitat have spawned a host of up-and-comers who will continue to carry her work to the next level. Goodall distinguished herself by sitting in the bush on a daily basis until the local chimpanzee tribal members came close enough to make physical contact with her. That an English woman scientist would journey to Tanzania to engage in this type of research is unusual and certainly puts her at "the top of her class". She follows the lives and behavior patterns of her subjects until her research sounds like a Michener novel with its generational emphasis and timelines of family heritage. Within this effort she follows each subsequent offspring through each of their successive cycles from birth and death. What is fascinating is how she describes personality differences, the kind that come from hard-coded genetic differences, the same as we find in human individuals. The mating behavior sounds like something out of "Cosmopolitan". The squabbles and fighting behavior could be that of any large Homo Sapien family. While Chimp's aren't on the same intellectual level as humans they certainly come closer than any other species. Jane Goodall deserves every accolade she gets for bringing us a lens through which to observe another genealogical line of a species that has developed from our common ancestors. Her work suggests that we should rethink our medical research toward more humane treatment of these animals whose behavior is too similar to ours to ignore. This is an excellent book.

I'm a simple consumer - I'm not exactly a biologist or super into the topic of evolution. But this book, really, is aimed at anyone who wants to know more about chimpanzees and the scientific process of observation. While I wouldn't exactly recommend this to a friend as a light read, I would say it's worth reading if you're already interested. I learned a great deal about what it means to be a animal behavior researcher as well as a good deal about the habits of chimpanzees and other animals in Gombe.

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