



A Naturalist and Other Beasts: Tales from a Life in the Field

By George B. Schaller

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Since the 1950s, eminent field biologist George Schaller has roamed through many lands observing wild animals and conducting landmark long-term studies that have deepened our understanding of these creatures. He has reported and reflected on his work in classic, much-acclaimed books, including *The Last Panda* and National Book Award winner *The Serengeti Lion*, but much of his best writing has been ephemeral, published in magazines, only to drop out of sight. This collection features 19 short pieces brought together in book form to offer a unique overview of his life in the field.

Chapters describe stalking tigers in India and jaguars in Brazil's Pantanal swamps, studying mountain gorillas in Central Africa and predator-prey relations in the Serengeti, tracking newfound species on the wild border of Vietnam and Laos, searching for snow leopards in the Hindu Kush, and Schaller's groundbreaking work with giant pandas in Sichuan. Later accounts broaden the focus from individual creatures to whole ecosystems. "The careless rapture of my early studies has been replaced more and more by efforts to protect animals and their habitats," he writes.

New to this book are Schaller's introductions for each chapter, which add and update information, and an overall introduction that looks back on his remarkable career.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Wildlife Conservation Society vice president Schaller (*The Last Panda*) presents 19 short pieces culled from the dozens of articles and books he has published during half a century spent observing animals around the world. The selections include studies of the daily lives of such exotic beasts as jaguars in Brazil; tigers in central India; lions, wildebeest and cheetahs in Tanzania's Serengeti Plain; giant pandas in China; snow leopards in Pakistan; and chiru (antelope) in the uplands of the Tibetan Plateau. Entwined with his descriptions of the animals are vivid pictures of his own life in the field—treks to remote places, camps established in tents and huts, hours perched in trees and other uncomfortable posts. Schaller began his career as a field biologist but, as these essays show, broadened his outlook over the years to become an outspoken advocate for wild animals and their habitats, helping to establish many wildlife conservation programs. He states in his introduction that as he looks back over his career, he finds today's conservation discourse lacking in heart, with people speaking of nature as "natural resources." His delightful book, imbued with his own unabashed sense of wonder before nature's beauties, is an antidote to this pragmatic trend. 75 b&w photos not seen by *PW*. (*Apr.*)

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From [Booklist](#)

Schaller, field biologist and vice president of the Wildlife Conservation Society in New York, guides readers through 50 years of fieldwork during the golden age of wildlife studies. He organizes his tales of adventure geographically, writing vividly of his unforgettable experiences in the Americas, Africa, South Asia, China, Mongolia, and the Tibetan plateau. In a time of sound bites, Schaller reminds us of the profound benefits of patient animal observation. No technology can replace a trained field biologist, and Schaller is at the top of his field in studies of barking deer and mice, a heron dubbed Siegfried, and prairie dogs in Tibet, not to mention mountain gorillas, tigers, and the thrilling discovery of new species. In this fond memoir, Schaller presents exciting animal lore that will inspire readers to learn more about these precious creatures. It is good to be reminded of what is beautiful in this world, and of our collective responsibility to ensure its continued existence. *Pamela Crossland*

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From the Inside Flap

"Full of fascinating observations and eminently dependable information--terrific!"--Peter Matthiessen

"George Schaller is one of those rather rare human beings--a painstaking and meticulous scientist who has also the spirit of the early naturalist-explorer. He is a brilliant conservationist."--Jane Goodall

"[P]olitics and science are only two of Schaller's realms--the other is the transcendent connection between humans and other animals."--Bill McKibben

"George Schaller is one of the great explorer-naturalists, and he would so rank in whatever era he lived. It is a pleasure to read this account from his own pen of his many adventures and scientific discoveries."--Edward O. Wilson

Users Review

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Rebecca West:

As people who live in often the modest era should be up-date about what going on or data even knowledge to make these keep up with the era that is certainly always change and move ahead. Some of you maybe will probably update themselves by studying books. It is a good choice to suit your needs but the problems coming to you is you don't know what one you should start with. This A Naturalist and Other Beasts: Tales from a Life in the Field is our recommendation to cause you to keep up with the world. Why, because book serves what you want and want in this era.

Terry Brown:

Many people spending their time by playing outside having friends, fun activity along with family or just watching TV all day long. You can have new activity to invest your whole day by looking at a book. Ugh, you think reading a book can definitely hard because you have to bring the book everywhere? It alright you can have the e-book, getting everywhere you want in your Cell phone. Like A Naturalist and Other Beasts: Tales from a Life in the Field which is getting the e-book version. So , why not try out this book? Let's see.

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