

A SHELTERED LIFE

The Unexpected History of the
Giant Tortoise



P A U L C H A M B E R S

Sheltered Life The Unexpected History Of The Giant Tortoise

Katie Spalding



Sheltered Life The Unexpected History Of The Giant Tortoise:

A Sheltered Life Paul Chambers, 2006 *A Sheltered Life* offers a fascinating look at one of the world's strangest and most wondrous animals whose significance in modern science and culture cannot be underestimated In an engaging blend of cultural and natural history the book ranges from the earliest mention of the tortoises many millennia ago to the wholesale plunder of their populations starting in the sixteenth century to modern attempts to protect the tortoise and track down members of what were once believed to be extinct populations

Maritime Animals Kaori Nagai, 2023-08-31 This volume explores nonhuman animals involvement with human maritime activities in the age of sail as well as the myriad multispecies connections formed across different geographical locations knitted together by the long history of global ship movement Far from treating the ship as a confined space defined by the sea *Maritime Animals* considers the ship's connections to broader contexts and networks and covers a variety of locations from the Canadian Arctic to the Pacific Islands Each chapter focuses on the oceanic experiences of a particular species from ship vermin animals transported onboard as food and animal specimens for scientific study to livestock companion and working animals deep sea animals that find refuge in shipwrecks and terrestrial animals that hunker down on flotsam and jetsam Drawing on recent scholarship in animal studies maritime studies environmental humanities and a wide range of other perspectives and storytelling approaches *Maritime Animals* challenges an anthropocentric understanding of maritime history Instead this volume highlights the ways in which species through their interaction with the oceans tell stories and make histories in significant and often surprising ways In addition to the editor the contributors to this volume include Anna Boswell Nancy Cushing Lea Edgar David Haworth Donna Landry Derek Lee Nelson Jimmy Packham Laurence Publicover Killian Quigley Lynette Russell Adam Sundberg and Thom van Dooren

Last of the Giants Jeff Campbell, 2019-08-01 Today an ancient world is vanishing right before our eyes the age of giant animals Over 40 000 years ago the earth was ruled by megafauna mammoths mastodons saber toothed tigers and giant sloths Of course those creatures no longer exist and there is only one likely reason for that the evolution and arrival of the earth's only tool wielding hunter the wildly adaptive comparatively pint sized human species Many more of the world's biggest and baddest creatures including the black rhino the dodo giant tortoises and the great auk have vanished since our world became truly global *Last of the Giants* chronicles those giant animals and apex predators pushed to extinction in the modern era The book also highlights those giant species that remain even though many barely survive living in such low numbers that they are on the brink of leaving this world within the next few decades However there is hope for many endangered species can still be saved As it profiles each extinct and endangered animal *Last of the Giants* focuses on the conservation efforts that are trying to preserve the world's remaining charismatic species before they are lost forever

On the Backs of Tortoises Elizabeth Hennessy, 2019-10-29 An insightful exploration of the iconic Galapagos tortoises and how their fate is inextricably linked to our own in a rapidly changing world Finalist for the 2020 E O Wilson Literary Science

Writing Award sponsored by PEN America Literary Awards The Galapagos archipelago is often viewed as a last foothold of pristine nature For sixty years conservationists have worked to restore this evolutionary Eden after centuries of exploitation at the hands of pirates whalers and island settlers This book tells the story of the islands namesakes the giant tortoises as coveted food sources objects of natural history and famous icons of conservation and tourism By doing so it brings into stark relief the paradoxical and impossible goal of conserving species by trying to restore a past state of prehistoric evolution The tortoises Elizabeth Hennessy demonstrates are not prehistoric but rather microcosms whose stories show how deeply human and nonhuman life are entangled In a world where evolution is thoroughly shaped by global history Hennessy puts forward a vision for conservation based on reckoning with the past rather than trying to erase it Fresh insightful Hennessy's melding of human and natural history makes for thought provoking reading Booklist starred review Gripping well researched and thought provoking whether you're well versed in the intricacies of conservation or have only just begun to long for a look at the tortoises yourself On the Backs of Tortoises is a natural history that asks important questions and challenges us to think about how best to answer them Genevieve Valentine NPR Wonderfully interesting informative and engaging as well as scholarly Janet Browne author of Charles Darwin Voyaging and Charles Darwin The Power of Place *Tortoises of the World* George R. Zug, Devin A. Reese, 2024-04-23 The first book dedicated entirely to the fascinating ecology of the world's tortoises *Tortoises of the World* is the only book to offer a comprehensive exploration of the biology natural history and conservation of the fascinating family Testudinidae Renowned reptile scientist George R Zug and acclaimed science writer Devin A Reese bring a wealth of research to life in this beautifully illustrated volume the first dedicated wholly to tortoises Focusing on the diversity of the 47 known tortoise species and their evolution from ancestral turtles this approachable and informative work explores Tortoise adaptations their unique body plan and their behavioral ecology The odd anatomy and physiology that enables tortoises life in shells Their resilience to extreme temperatures and aridity Tortoises role as ecosystem engineers in the diverse habitats they occupy Their intricate life cycle from mating rituals and nesting to the tenuous survival of eggs and hatchlings Zug and Reese also examine the challenging nature of interactions between tortoises and humans while highlighting ongoing conservation efforts to secure their futures **Lonesome George** NA, 2016-09-23 Lonesome George is a 5 foot long 200 pound tortoise between 60 and 200 years old In 1971 he was discovered on the remote Galapagos island of Santa Cruz from which tortoises had supposedly been extinct for years He has been at the Charles Darwin Research Station on Santa Cruz island ever since on the off chance that scientific ingenuity will conjure up a way of reproducing him and resurrecting his species Meanwhile countless tourists and dozens of baffled scientists have looked on as the celebrity reptile shows not a jot of interest in the female company provided Today Lonesome George has come to embody the mystery complexity and fragility of the unique Galapagos archipelago His story echoes the challenges of conservation worldwide it is a story of Darwin sexual dysfunction adventure on the high seas cloning DNA

fingerprinting and eco tourism

Famous Animals in History and Popular Culture Ann C. Paietta, Jean

Kauppila, 2023-05-02 During the First World War President Woodrow Wilson bought a flock of sheep to trim the White House grounds to save money on groundskeeping One of the sheep called Old Ike even became a public phenomenon for his ornery disposition and his penchant for chewing tobacco Included here are hundreds of well researched accounts of the fascinating animals that have played vital roles throughout history Featured animals include Able who flew on a space mission Bayou Salvador Dali's ocelot companion and G I Joe a pigeon who saved more than 100 people during World War II These and many other stories detail the unexpected contributions of our animal companions in settings of war space travel stage and screen The book is organized alphabetically by the given name of each animal and entries feature compelling factual descriptions in a storytelling format

The Unnatural History of the Sea Callum Roberts, 2009-01-05 Humanity can make short work of the oceans creatures In 1741 hungry explorers discovered herds of Steller's sea cow in the Bering Strait and in less than thirty years the amiable beast had been harpooned into extinction It's a classic story but a key fact is often omitted Bering Island was the last redoubt of a species that had been decimated by hunting and habitat loss years before the explorers set sail As Callum M Roberts reveals in The Unnatural History of the Sea the oceans bounty didn't disappear overnight While today's fishing industry is ruthlessly efficient intense exploitation began not in the modern era or even with the dawn of industrialization but in the eleventh century in medieval Europe Roberts explores this long and colorful history of commercial fishing taking readers around the world and through the centuries to witness the transformation of the seas Drawing on firsthand accounts of early explorers pirates merchants fishers and travelers the book recreates the oceans of the past waters teeming with whales sea lions sea otters turtles and giant fish The abundance of marine life described by fifteenth century seafarers is almost unimaginable today but Roberts both brings it alive and artfully traces its depletion Collapsing fisheries he shows are simply the latest chapter in a long history of unfettered commercialization of the seas The story does not end with an empty ocean Instead Roberts describes how we might restore the splendor and prosperity of the seas through smarter management of our resources and some simple restraint From the coasts of Florida to New Zealand marine reserves have fostered spectacular recovery of plants and animals to levels not seen in a century They prove that history need not repeat itself we can leave the oceans richer than we found them

Reptiles Nicolae Sfetcu, 2014-05-13 Today there are 6 800 reptile species on earth the major groups are alligators and crocodiles turtles lizards and snakes Reptiles are tetrapods and amniotes animals whose embryos are surrounded by an amniotic membrane Today they are represented by four surviving orders crocodilia crocodiles caimans and alligators sphenodontia tuataras from New Zealand squamata lizards snakes and amphisbaenids worm lizards and testudines turtles

Lost Wonders Tom Lathan, 2024-11-07 In Lost Wonders Tom Lathan tells ten powerful stories of species that have lived died out and been declared extinct since the turn of the twenty first century Timely elegiac Daily Mail Superb storytelling an exhilarating and vital book Charles Foster author of Cry

of the Wild Many scientists believe that we are currently living through the Earth's sixth mass extinction with species disappearing at a rate not seen for tens of millions of years a trend that will only accelerate as climate change and other pressures intensify What does it mean to live in such a time And what exactly do we lose when a species goes extinct In a series of fascinating encounters with subjects that are now nowhere to be found on Earth from giant tortoises to minuscule snails the size of sesame seeds from ocean hopping trees to fish that wag their tails like puppies Tom Lathan brings these lost wonders briefly back to life and gives us a tantalising glimpse of what we have lost within our own lifetime Drawing on the personal recollections of the people who studied these species as well as those who tried but ultimately failed to save them and with beautiful illustrations Lost Wonders is an intimate portrait of the species that have only recently vanished from our world and an urgent warning to hold on all the more tightly to those now slipping from our grasp Illustrated by Claire Kohda

Altruistic Armadillos, Zenlike Zebras Jeffrey Moussaieff Masson, 2010-02-01 From the elegant lithe and yes friendly cheetah to the diminutive and faithful sea horse and from the giant and surprisingly warlike hippopotamus to the majestic gorilla animals have long fascinated humans In this appealing book Jeffrey Moussaieff Masson draws from his wealth of knowledge and a lifetime of fascination with the animal kingdom to present little known facts and thorough explanations for behaviors of animals both familiar and lesser known Presented from A to Z each entry is accompanied by a beautiful full color photograph Readers will learn from someone who knows these animals and loves them as much as you do Edison's Ghosts Katie Spalding, 2023-05-16 Publishers Weekly Best Summer Reads Overturn everything you knew about history's greatest minds in this raucous and hilarious book where it turns out there's a finer line between genius and idiot than we've previously known As Albert Einstein almost certainly never said everyone is a genius but if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid So begins Katie Spalding's spunky takedown of the Western canon and how genius may not be as irrefutably great as we commonly understand While most of us may never become Einstein it may surprise you to learn that there's probably a bunch of stuff you can do that Einstein couldn't And as Spalding shows the famous prodigies she explores here were quite odd by any definition For example Thomas Edison inventor of the lightbulb believed that he could communicate with the undead and built the world's very first hotline to heaven the Spirit Phone Marie and Pierre Curie famous for discovering radioactivity slept next to a lump of radioactive material for years and strapped it to their arms to watch it burn them in real time Lord Byron acclaimed British poet literally took a bear with him to university Isaac Newton discovered the laws of gravity and motion but he also looked up at the sun without eye protection The result Three days of blindness Tesla whose scientific work led to the invention of the AC unit fell in love with a pigeon Edison's Ghosts is filled with examples of the so called best of humanity doing to put it bluntly some really dumb shit You'll discover stories that deserve to be told but never are the hilarious regrettable and downright bafflingly lesser known achievements that never made it into our history books until now *Animals Strike Curious Poses* Elena

Passarello,2017-02-06 It might be the best book on animals I've ever read It's also the only one that's made me laugh out loud Helen Macdonald The New York Times Book Review Beginning with Yuka a 39 000 year old mummified woolly mammoth recently found in the Siberian permafrost each of the sixteen essays in Animals Strike Curious Poses investigates a different famous animal named and immortalized by humans Modeled loosely after a medieval bestiary these witty playful whip smart essays from a winner of a Whiting Award for nonfiction traverse history myth science and more bringing each beast vibrantly to life Stunning Passarello's keen wit is on display throughout as she raises questions about the uniqueness of humans A feast of surprising juxtapositions and gorgeous prose Publishers Weekly starred review I've spent decades reading books on the roles animals play in human cultures but none have ever made me think and feel as much as this one It's a devastating meditation on our relationship to the natural world Helen Macdonald The New York Times Book Review

Multispecies Futures Roman Bartosch,Liza B. Bauer,Alexandra Böhm,Micha Gerrit Philipp Edlich,Greta Gaard,Björn Hayer,Andreas Hübner,Michaela Keck,Maria Moss,Jobst Paul,Mieke Roscher,Pamela Steen,Nils Steffensen,2022-06-14 In light of the dramatic growth and rapid institutionalization of human animal studies in recent years it is somewhat surprising that only a small number of publications have proposed practical and theoretical approaches to teaching in this inter and transdisciplinary field Featuring eleven original pedagogical interventions from the social sciences and the humanities as well as an epilogue from ecofeminist critic Greta Gaard the present volume addresses this gap and responds to the demand by both educators and students for pedagogies appropriate for dealing with environmental crises The theoretical and practical contributions collected here describe new ways of teaching human animal studies in different educational settings and institutional contexts suggesting how learners equipped with key concepts such as agency or relationality can develop empathy and ethical regard for the more than human world and especially nonhuman animals As the contributors to this volume show these cognitive and affective goals can be achieved in many curricula in secondary and tertiary education By providing learners with the tools to challenge human exceptionalism in its various guises and related patterns of domination and exploitation in and outside the classroom these interventions also contribute to a much needed transformation not only of today's educational systems but of society as a whole This volume is an invitation to beginners and experienced instructors alike an invitation to reconsider how we teach human animal studies and how we could and should prepare learners for an uncertain future in ideally a more egalitarian and just multispecies world With contributions by Roman Bartosch Liza B Bauer Alexandra B hm Micha Gerrit Philipp Edlich Greta Gaard Bj rn Hayer Andreas H bner Michaela Keck Maria Moss Jobst Paul Mieke Roscher Pamela Steen and Nils Steffensen Galápagos Randy Moore,2021-01-13 Winner 2022 RUSA Outstanding Reference Source This encyclopedia provides readers with a comprehensive look at the Gal pagos Islands from the wildlife and scientists that made them famous to the challenges and issues the islands face today In the mid 1800s the Gal pagos Islands served as Charles Darwin's playground a volcanic archipelago where he famously worked on his theories of evolution

and natural selection But who actually discovered the islands Why didn't any country claim them for more than 200 years And is ecotourism hurting or helping these mysterious islands This volume explores the history science and culture of the Galapagos Islands A preface introduction chronology and Galapagos at a Glance primer introduce readers to the islands that are so famously associated with Charles Darwin Twelve thematic essays allow readers to explore such topics as evolution the geology of the islands invasive species and tourism in depth Topical entries follow covering key individuals and organizations as well as other important concepts and ideas Thirteen primary document excerpts allow readers to study firsthand accounts from explorers and visitors to the islands Appendices a glossary a bibliography and sidebars round out the text Students of history geography and science will find this volume informative while general readers will be intrigued to learn about these unique islands

Galápagos Paul D. Stewart, 2007-02-28 Details the natural and human history of the islands and describes Darwin's theory of evolution

The Galapagos Henry Nicholls, 2014-04-08 Charles Darwin called it a little world within itself Sailors referred to it as Las Encantadas the enchanted islands Lying in the eastern Pacific Ocean straddling the equator off the west coast of South America the Galapagos is the most pristine archipelago to be found anywhere in the tropics It is so remote so untouched that the act of wading ashore can make you feel like you are the first to do so Yet the Galapagos is far more than a wild paradise on earth it is one of the most important sites in the history of science Home to over 4 000 species native to its shores around 40 percent of them endemic the islands have often been called a laboratory of evolution The finches collected on the Galapagos inspired Darwin's revolutionary theory of natural selection In *The Galapagos* science writer Henry Nicholls offers a lively natural and human history of the archipelago charting its course from deserted wilderness to biological testing ground and global ecotourism hot spot Describing the island chain's fiery geological origins as well as our species long history of interaction with the islands he draws vivid portraits of the life forms found in the Galapagos capturing its awe inspiring landscapes understated flora and stunning wildlife Nicholls also reveals the immense challenges facing the islands which must continually balance conservation and ever encroaching development Beautifully weaving together natural history evolutionary theory and his own experience on the islands Nicholls shows that the story of the Galapagos is not merely an isolated concern but reflects the future of our species relationship with nature and the fate of our planet

Galapagos Giant Tortoises, 2020-11-07 Galapagos Giant Tortoises brings together researchers and conservationists to share the most up to date knowledge of Galapagos giant tortoises Despite being icons of the world famous Galapagos Archipelago and the target of more than 50 years of conservation research and management Galapagos giant tortoise evolution and much of their ecology remained unknown until recently This book documents the history the pressing conservation issues and success stories recovering several of the 15 different species of Galapagos tortoises from near extinction The book begins with an overview of the history of the relationship between humans and Galapagos giant tortoises starting from initial heavy exploitation of tortoises by pirates and whalers and extending to the start of the modern conservation era in the 1960s The

book then shifts to biology describing Galapagos tortoise evolution taxonomy ecology habitats reproduction and behavior Next the decades of conservation efforts and their results are reviewed including issues of captive breeding invasive species introduced diseases and de extinction as well as the current status and distribution of every species The final portion of the book turns to four case studies of restoration and then looks ahead to the future of all tortoise populations The latest volume in the Biodiversity of the World Conservation from Genes to Landscape series Galapagos Giant Tortoises is a valuable resource for researchers and conservationists as well as students of biology wildlife conservation and herpetology Provides a comprehensive overview of the Galapagos giant tortoise species as written and edited by the world s leading experts Presents examples of restoration of tortoise populations following the near extinction of many of them Describes conservation strategies to ensure the full recovery of all extant species Explores recent efforts using replacement tortoises for extinct species to restore island ecosystems

National Geographic Kids Animal Stories Jane Yolen, 2014-10-14 Amazing animal stories that span the centuries come to life in this beautifully written and illustrated book Some are sweet some funny some surprising but all are emotionally powerful the Capitoline geese who saved the Roman empire Balto the Alaskan sled dog Smokey the Bear the passenger pigeon of WWI Cher Ami and the latest internet sensation Christian the lion A collection such as this comes along only once in a generation full of heartwarming tales that families will read re read and remember

Reptiles of Victoria Peter Robertson, A. John Coventry, 2014-03-01 Victoria s reptiles are not often encountered by urban dwellers with many species now threatened You may have glimpsed a skink darting into the undergrowth a snake slithering along a walking path or a blue tongued lizard sunning itself near your garden shed Yet the turtles skinks geckos goannas snakes and other reptiles that call Victoria home are fascinating and important members of urban and rural ecosystems Reptiles of Victoria is the first regional guide to all reptiles known to occur in Victoria It contains keys and illustrated descriptions to allow identification of the 123 native introduced and vagrant reptile species and describes their biology ecology distributions and the habitats in which they live It also indicates the level of risk that the venomous snakes pose to humans and includes a brief section on first aid for snake bites Natural history enthusiasts and professional and amateur herpetologists will find this an essential guide

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