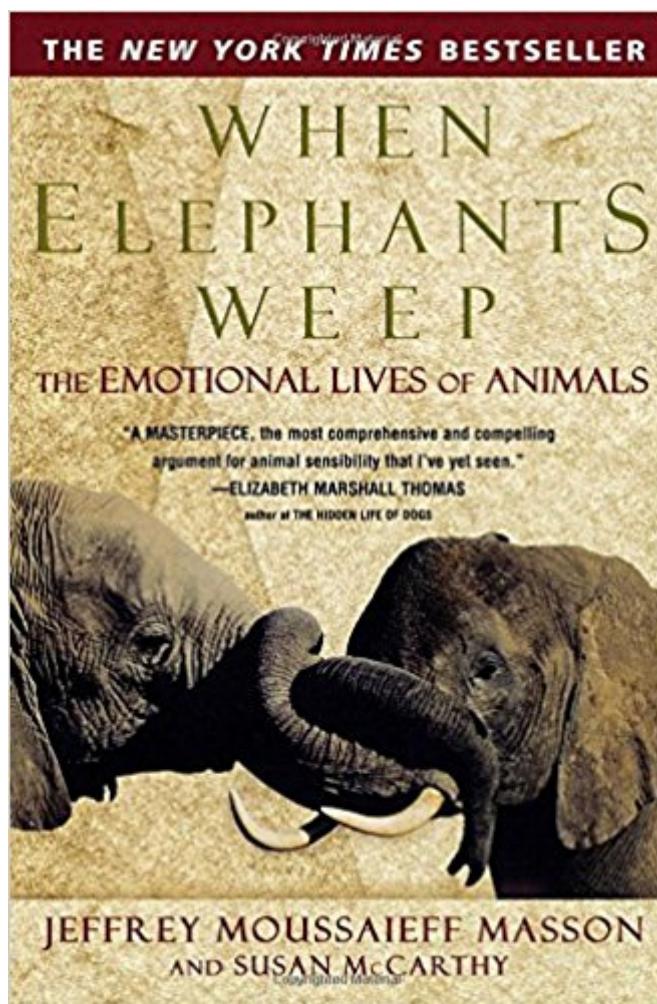


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When Elephants Weep: The Emotional Lives Of Animals



Synopsis

This national bestseller exploring the complex emotional lives of animals was hailed as "a masterpiece" by Elizabeth Marshall Thomas and as "marvelous" by Jane Goodall. The popularity of When Elephants Weep has swept the nation, as author Jeffrey Masson appeared on Dateline NBC, Good Morning America, and was profiled in People for his ground-breaking and fascinating study. Not since Darwin's The Expression of Emotions in Man and Animals has a book so thoroughly and effectively explored the full range of emotions that exist throughout the animal kingdom. From dancing squirrels to bashful gorillas to spiteful killer whales, Masson and coauthor Susan McCarthy bring forth fascinating anecdotes and illuminating insights that offer powerful proof of the existence of animal emotion. Chapters on love, joy, anger, fear, shame, compassion, and loneliness are framed by a provocative re-evaluation of how we treat animals, from hunting and eating them to scientific experimentation. Forming a complete and compelling picture of the inner lives of animals, When Elephants Weep assures that we will never look at animals in the same way again.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

An examination of the inner lives of animals, arguing that they possess an emotional sensibility not unlike that of humans. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.

YA?Animals do in fact lead emotional lives, according to Masson. He has managed to find hundreds of anecdotes from the published works and field studies of such noted behaviorists as Jane

Goodall, Dian Fossey, and Cynthia Moss that support his theory. It seems that, despite the fact that anthropomorphism is among the worst of scientific taboos, these respected scientists cannot help but notice the similarities between human and animal behavior. Chapters are organized by topic, such as fear, love, grief, and even compassion and beauty. An index provides access by species and by personal name of both people and animals. An excellent resource in psychology, this title will also be a useful addition for animal research. Its clear and conversational style makes it interesting for general readers as well. A well-documented, compelling, and thought-provoking defense of animal emotions. ?Robin Deffendall, Prince William Public Library System, Manassas, VA Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

This book will change your core ideas of how animals perceive their world - and us. You'll likely reassess your meat purchases (i.e., CFO vs. pasture raised and humanely slaughtered).

This is an excellent book about animal emotions.

It seems to be an age old question to wonder whether animals have emotions. The everyday person believes, for the most part, that they do. The scientist, on the other hand, would say categorically no. Masson and McCarthy do a wonderful job in showing the possibility that animals may have and feel emotions as well. We are treated to numerous examples of the full range of emotions that humans feel. Stories of elephants showing happiness at finding them, or gorillas able to express their feelings through sign language. Love in birds and justice in chimpanzees. Each example is very short with not much further explanation, but they do seem to be clear examples that illustrate beautifully the expression of emotions. But this is the small downside as well, because this isn't really a scientific book explaining answers to theories, but is rather a treatise for the need of scientific research. I think for good reason it could be dangerous to assume that animals feel the same or similar emotions simply because we could be projecting our own feelings and emotions through our interpretation. Or simply put: anthropomorphism. The second to last chapter did just this as the authors theorized the possibility of animals worshiping the sun or, even worse, humans. When a lion eats young cubs, either their own or another litter's cubs, they theorized that the lioness "hates waste, or cleans up all messes her cubs make, as part of her love". Or even better that the mother lioness ate her dead cub because she wanted may have wanted "to feel closer to her dead offspring when it was a part of her again". Unfortunately, as the last few chapters of any book usually are, the chapter stands out and points directly at the very negative aspect of

anthropomorphism and the negative ideas that can spawn from applying human feelings or logic on to animals. Aside from the second to last chapter I think that Masson and McCarthy did a wonderful job in showing that there does need to be some sort of research done to further our understanding of animals. After all, why are humans so arrogant to believe that we are unique in feeling emotions? Why must we be the center of the universe and there be no intelligent life on earth except humans and that humans are the only intelligent life in the universe? We were certain that the earth was flat, that the sun revolved around the earth, and that the bible should be accepted as literal truth. All of those assumptions were wrong, so why not the notion that animals do not have feelings be wrong? I would recommend if for nothing else but to read about the wonderful lives of so many different animals. 4 stars.

I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book and would definitely recommend it to those seeking a great perspective on animal emotions. The author thoroughly impressed me with the extensive amount of research he completed and the wide variety of sources that he referenced. He alluded to studies completed by Jane Goodall, detailed language projects involving apes and Alex (the famous talking African Gray parrot), and spoke about service animals, among other topics. This gave the book a strong backbone of credibility upon which to rest. Dr. Masson also covered a wide variety of emotions that might exist in animals, including love, fear, altruism, anger, etc. He additionally gave an opinion on anthropomorphism, which I believe is extremely important when discussing the topic of animal emotions, which probably differ in varying degrees from our own. I only have a couple of criticisms about the book. First of all, it is presented in a somewhat disorganized fashion. It seems like topic after topic is flung at the reader with no strong organization to the material. Also, the book never comes to some kind of conclusion about what science should do to research animal emotions. I believe there should have at least been some suggestion, in light of the fact that the author criticized science for not having focused on this subject enough. All in all, the book is worth reading and pondering over. Perhaps it is appropriate for someone to start with the questions so that others are enticed into questing for answers.

Advertized as new, yes..it was..and quick ship..I'm happy.

Jeffrey Moussaieff's book offered a nice range of examples on various emotions. I enjoyed reading it, but I thought that some of the examples were questionable and displayed too much of an anthropomorphic view of animals. I strongly believe that animals do have emotions. It wouldn't even

be conceivable to me that they would just live without any emotions. Jeffrey goes a long way in proving that they do, using a variety of examples. However, I'm not sure about who the reader for this book is. Is it the people who already know that animals have emotions and love them so much that they wanted to read and learn more about it? Or is it the person who doesn't have a clue about it, nor cares to know? I would say the former. He has great points and I enjoyed reading it. Some great stories and eye opening facts. I would highly recommend it.

One of the best books ever arguing the point that animals truly are sentient beings and deserve to be treated as such. This author found great true life stories to make the point. Grab a tissue as it'll touch your heart. I read a library copy years ago. Now have a copy of my own.

Awesome book!!

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