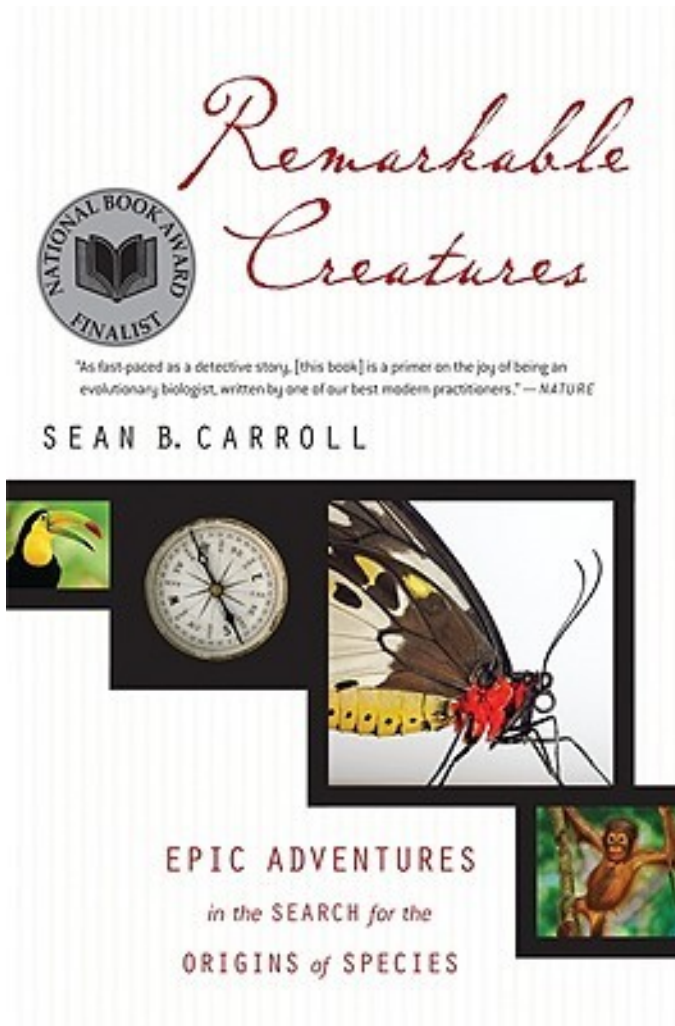

Sean B. Carroll

Remarkable Creatures: Epic Adventures in the Search for the Origins of Species



Title: Remarkable Creatures: Epic Adventures in the Search for the Origins of Species

Author: Sean B. Carroll

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Description

An award-winning biologist takes us on the dramatic expeditions that unearthed the history of life on our planet.

Just 150 years ago, most of our world was an unexplored wilderness. Our sense of its age was vague and vastly off the mark, and much of the knowledge of our own species' history was a set of fantastic myths and fairy tales. In the tradition of *The Microbe Hunters* and *Gods, Graves, and Scholars*, Sean Carroll leads a rousing voyage that recounts the most important discoveries in two centuries of natural history: from Darwin's trip around the world to Charles Walcott's discovery of pre-Cambrian life in the Grand Canyon; from Louis and Mary Leakey's investigation of our deepest past in East Africa to the trailblazers in modern laboratories who have located a time clock in our DNA.

Insightful reviews

Amy: This was just absolutely brilliant! It was extraordinarily interesting and informative, exceptionally well written, beautifully researched, marvelously accessible and exciting, and wonderfully cohesive!

So many times I found myself shaking my head with awe and wonder at the discoveries made by the scientists profiled in this book. It was just marvelous--I loved it! It made me wish that I had stopped flirting with the idea of majoring in biology, and just gone ahead and done it. Remarkable, indeed!

Oh, and [Jim Bond's](#) narration of the audiobook was excellent, too! Very well done! I understand there are pictures in this book, which I missed by listening to it rather than reading it, but Wikipedia took care of me when I wanted visuals.

James Manders: I found this book in a pound shop, it was about natural science and had an orange cover, so reminded me of [Douglas Adams's Last Chance to See](#) (my copy is the orange version) so I was sold instantly!

Remarkable creatures is like a brief history of the theory of evolution, starting with Darwin and Wallace and the origins of the theory, before taking you through the subsequent 150 years and the discoveries that have helped to prove the theory and to improve our knowledge of our biological history on this planet.

It's written on the cover, but it's definitely true that this book is less about the discoveries themselves and more about the discoverers, their lives, their adventures and their determination in their goals, they are clearly the remarkable creatures of the books title.

Donna: In an extremely close, affectionate, life-long marriage, Charles Darwin and his wife

Emma were able to tolerate and transcend their philosophical differences. (She was a devout, conservative Christian who believed in the Biblical version of creation.) He entrusted her with the disposition of his writings in the event of his early demise.

Louis Leaky, a son of English missionaries in Africa, was initiated into the native Kikuyu society at the age of 11. He received an African name (*Wakuruigi*, "Son of the Sparrow Hawk"), constructed a dwelling of his own, and thereafter lived apart from his family. His eventual wife, Mary Leaky, enjoyed relaxing with a cigar at the end of the day.

On April 29, 1962, Linus Pauling picketed the White House with a group of protesters opposed to the U.S. resumption of nuclear testing. Then he changed his clothes, went inside, and joined President Kennedy for a dinner honoring him and other American Nobel Prize winners.

With details like these, Sean B. Carroll brings to life some of the "remarkable creatures" whose discoveries have furthered human understanding of the history of life on earth. A very readable book, *Remarkable Creatures* does a credible job of putting into context about two hundred years of scientific accomplishments. Highly recommended.

Leslie: Sooo.....we did evolve from apes. I knew it! That explains such a lot of things, the entire hair in strange places, the urge to groom my husband, why my youngest hangs on me like a monkey. Carroll encompasses a quote at the final web page of this book, speak is cheap, exploration and discovery is hard. Boy, oh boy is that true! a few everyone is simply born to discover stuff. a few individuals are simply premade to take on a long time of facing sunburns, throwing up, hearth ant bites, fevers, sea-sickness, extra throwing up, starvation, sour cold, gale strength winds, spear-holding natives, being buried in sandstorms, and sore bums from driving donkeys. yet i do not know, being the 1st to set foot in unexplored wilderness, areas no people have treaded in millions of years, if at all, could make it worthy it. simply maybe... an excellent staff of as a rule males (and a couple of in short pointed out girls - Mary Leakey), a few tiny males (Darwin), a few Indiana Jones forms (Roy Chapman Andrews), and a few nerdy, yet lovable a number of Nobel Prize successful scientists (Linus Pauling) are integrated besides a number of others during this book. I realized loads of issues i did not find out about a few the best explorers of the final centuries. What trials they went via to make their discoveries. What nice determination! After studying this I felt a good urge to marry a decided explorer and allow him take the credits for all my discoveries, or perhaps absorb rock accumulating again, or stopover at the closest fossil beds, as I stay in Idaho and there are lots of previous annoying creatures buried round here, no longer together with our present country political leaders....Ahem.Read this publication when you are in the slightest degree drawn to science, researching whatever new, and if you have ever on your existence hit a rock with a hammer to discover a diamond inside. simply make sure to put on protecting glasses when you do that.Trust me I know.

The Nomadic: "All truths are effortless to appreciate after they are discovered; the purpose is to find them".This booklet is a chronicle of the best adventures in traditional historical past within the final 2 hundred years. the writer Sean Carroll, a professor of genetics on the collage of Wisconsin-Madison, appears to be like on the lives of people that had long gone into the wild, with one purpose, to discover facts of evolution. He begins with Darwin and his voyage round

the world. Darwin's ardour for amassing and for exploring the unknown used to be remarkable, and helped him undergo the loneliness, consistent seasickness, discomfort, and risks of the voyage. subsequent is Alfred Russell Wallace along with his expeditions. Wallace spent within the Amazon 4 years and he virtually misplaced his lifestyles while the send that was once bringing him in England stuck hearth and sank in addition to just about all the specimens he had collected. He used to be rescued, after ten days in a lifeboat, purely to go away again, this time to New Guinea, the place he spent 8 years collecting. It used to be there, that he got here up with an analogous notion Darwin did, in regards to the evolution, of species. certainly one of finest photographs within the publication is the only of Charles Walcott. although he by no means accomplished formal education, he built a keenness for fossils and have become a professional on trilobites - they're arthropods that went extinct within the Permian. He was once the 1st to discover and survey the rocks and the fossils within the Grand Canyon merely with himself, a cook dinner and a mule. the duty used to be enormous, however it did not deter Walcott to make one of many significant discoveries within the box of ordinary sciences. He chanced on the earliest fossil facts of life; the easiest type of life, throughout the Precambrian period. Later, Walcott turn into director of the united states Geological Survey, and a depended on consultant to seven diversified presidents. He additionally performed and demanding position in selling aviation within the United States, and helped within the construction of a brand new employer referred to as NACA which used to be the civil aviation authority within the US and 50 years later, built into being NASA. Carroll additionally talks approximately Eugene Dubois, who present in Java the lacking hyperlink among apes and humans. It was once a molar skullcap and a thigh bone of what we known as today, Homo Erectus. the most interesting portrait is that of Roy Chapman Andrews. He had an fascinating personality; an explorer and adventurer, a undercover agent and talented scientist. He was once captivated by way of Mongolia and the Gobi desert. together with his staff he came across the 1st nest of dinosaur eggs and several other new dinosaur species, together with Velocipartor and Tarborsaurus. The ebook is superbly written. the outline of the adventures and struggles of the scientists to find and fill the gaps within the traditional historical past and human evolution is captivating, and simply grasps the eye of the reader, in particular the more youthful ones. The photographs, maps and charts are necessary complement within the text. The examining checklist is wide and comprehensive, and certainly you want to battle through it. In total, the booklet is very recommended.

Susan: strangely attractive learn (my music checklist with nonfiction isn't really that reliable -- I are inclined to choose up books that I examine / heard approximately in other places that has enticing summaries and locate them tremendously boring and lengthy winded as soon as i really commence analyzing them). it is a bit a...dramatized serial biography of people that are eager about reports of evolution. quickly read, which I certainly appreciate. be aware that it really is written via a male Caucasian professor notwithstanding and so the tales are, with only a few exceptions, headquartered round male Caucasian scientists. There are a couple of strains the place it kind of feels just like the writer used to be going the traces of "oh these foolish natives have no idea what TREASURES they have", whereas discussing paleontology that makes me uncomfortable. it's however, a far lesser measure of frustrating than Darwin's depiction of natives. So that is good. indicates we now have come someplace when you consider that 1800s.Would suggest for individuals attracted to evolution. observe i did not say scientists simply because something this publication does very well is making the learn available to a

generalized viewers (I imagine so, anyway, yet i am a scientist so i am evidently biased) (but i actually do imagine the writer did this relatively well.).

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