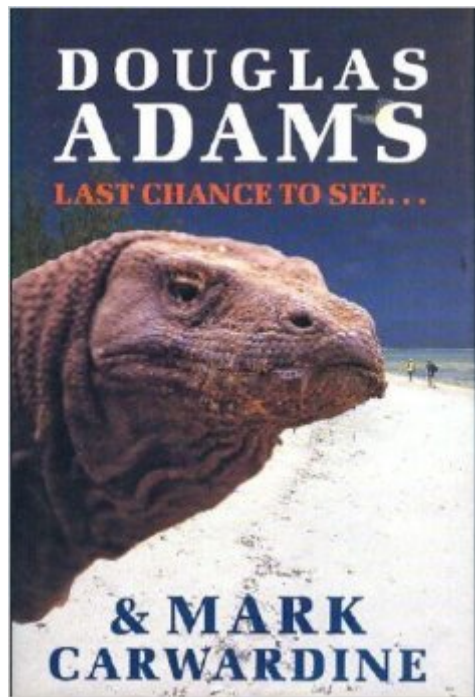


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Last Chance To See



Synopsis

The best-selling science fiction humorist Douglas Adams accompanies a world-class zoologist on an around-the-world trip in search of exotic, endangered creatures. By turns hilarious and poignant, this is a treat for Adams fans and anyone who cares about Earth's wildlife.

Book Information

Hardcover: 220 pages

Publisher: Harmony; 1st American ed edition (February 13, 1991)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0517582155

ISBN-13: 978-0517582152

Product Dimensions: 1.2 x 6 x 7 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.7 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (275 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #352,655 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #82 inÂ Books > Science & Math > Nature & Ecology > Endangered Species #156 inÂ Books > Science & Math > Nature & Ecology > Animal Rights #354 inÂ Books > Science & Math > Biological Sciences > Animals > Wildlife

Customer Reviews

Douglas Adams' sense of humour is so strong, it could inject a bucketful of laughs into an obituary. Needless to say I wasn't surprised when this book, his elegy for endangered species, turned out to have a welcome balance between laughter and melancholy. Adams is joined by zoologist Mark Carwardine, as they use their last chance to see a variety of animals on the brink of extinction, such as the Komodo Dragon, the White Rhinos of Zaire, New Zealand kakapos, and Yangtze river dolphins. Adams, amateur wildlife lover, is wise enough to know the purpose of his journey: to shine some of the glare from his celebrity as a "science-fiction comedy novelist" on the issue of global extinction. He does wisely not to downplay the plight of these animals in the favour of commerciality, but manages to produce an entertaining work nonetheless. Carwardine, and the other people we encounter, sometimes come off as little more than characters in a Douglas Adams novel. I am hesitant to believe that everyone he encounters has the same dry, deadpanned British sense of humour. Nonetheless, the characters' eccentricities further shed light on the kinds of people who are willing to undertake the monumental task of saving these beautiful beasts. It is not work for the dispassionate. "The great thing about being the only species that makes a distinction between right and wrong," he notes at one point, "is that we can make up the rules for ourselves as we go along."

Which brings up the second theme he hopes to illustrate here. Humans are dumb. No, that's too simple. Humans are egotistical, selfish, wasteful, materialistic, impudent, and dumb.

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