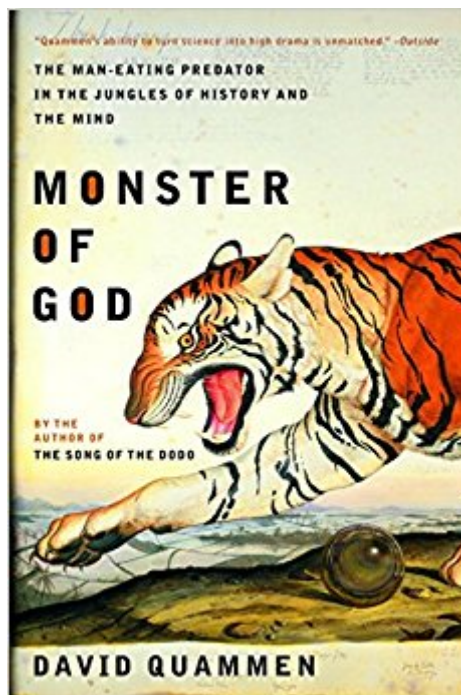




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# Monster Of God: The Man-Eating Predator In The Jungles Of History And The Mind



## Synopsis

"Rich detail and vivid anecdotes of adventure....A treasure trove of exotic fact and hard thinking." —The New York Times Book Review, front page For millennia, lions, tigers, and their man-eating kin have kept our dark, scary forests dark and scary, and their predatory majesty has been the stuff of folklore. But by the year 2150 big predators may only exist on the other side of glass barriers and chain-link fences. Their gradual disappearance is changing the very nature of our existence. We no longer occupy an intermediate position on the food chain; instead we survey it invulnerably from above—so far above that we are in danger of forgetting that we even belong to an ecosystem. Casting his expert eye over the rapidly diminishing areas of wilderness where predators still reign, the award-winning author of *The Song of the Dodo* examines the fate of lions in India's Gir forest, of saltwater crocodiles in northern Australia, of brown bears in the mountains of Romania, and of Siberian tigers in the Russian Far East. In the poignant and troublesome ferocity of these embattled creatures, we recognize something primeval deep within us, something in danger of vanishing forever.

## Book Information

Paperback: 528 pages

Publisher: W. W. Norton & Company; Reprint edition (September 17, 2004)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 9780393326093

ISBN-13: 978-0393326093

ASIN: 0393326098

Product Dimensions: 5.6 x 1 x 8.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 37 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #347,722 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #94 in Books > Science & Math > Nature & Ecology > Endangered Species #358 in Books > Science & Math > Biological Sciences > Animals > Wildlife #364 in Books > Science & Math > Nature & Ecology > Natural History

## Customer Reviews

—“He sees both sides of the equation, which environmentalists still tend to frame in terms of good animals versus evil people....Insatiably curious, level-headed and amazingly erudite.” —Washington Post Book World —“Erudite, witty, and utterly fascinating...sets a new standard in

nature writing. - T. Coraghessan Boyle

David Quammen is the author of *The Song of the Dodo*, among other books. He has been honored by the American Academy of Arts and Letters and is the recipient of a John Burroughs Medal and the National Magazine Award. He lives in Bozeman, Montana.

David Quammen is an exceptionally good writer; however, this book is very slow in places and boring to read. Much of the book reads like a research paper which in a way it is. This book is for those highly interested in the subject and is quite heavy duty reading. I still recommended the book, though, because it presents an important and educational message,

My first Quammen book and now I'm hungry for more. He digs deep into history, myth, folklore, and gets into his own field work to produce this masterwork.

This book is amazing. As in its predecessor, *The Song of the Dodo*, David Quammen achieves an amazing feat by combining science, travel stories, literature, history, and philosophy (and a sprinkling of pop culture) into a compelling discussion of the fate of what he calls "alpha predators" in this modern world. Quammen traveled to India to visit people living among lions (yes, lions), Australia to visit people living among crocodiles, Romania to visit people living with brown bears (who knew?), and the Russian Far East to visit people living with tigers. Each of these pieces is a distinct story by itself, with its own set of characters, yet Quammen sews them all together with common concerns about predators, prey, and who pays the price of having these alpha predators around. Sensitive to traditional cultures as he is to natural ecosystems, Quammen is a great writer producing unique literature that is important for our time.

Well done.

Quammen writes about the survivor, not humanity, but rather the man-eating predators. The true monster's of God are humanity and their destructive nature when it comes to the world around them. Great read nonetheless. Depressing, but fascinating as well. Survival has never seemed to majestic.

*Song of the Dodo* was much better.

good

I could not finish this, just too boring.

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