

New Titles

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own righteousness. Most seem to have humble beginnings—living in tents, cabins, or minibuses without heat and electricity—but then through shrewdness and force of will, they rose to positions of international standing. As a cheerleading effort, the book performs well, and if you are interested in reading stories of people who are much richer and more dedicated to saving the environment than you are, you won't be disappointed. If you are amused by fanatics whose homes are shrines to turtles or who consider raising a forest supervisor's blood pressure by 50 points every morning to be a noble goal in itself, then you'll love these people.

*When \$600,000 can buy 24,000 acres in Chile,
but can't buy a condo in San Francisco, is it
noble to ignore how much money we've made
paving over our environment while praising
ourselves for purchasing land somewhere else
and locking it away so that country's
poor citizens can't use it?*

As a feel-good description of some positive developments in the environmental wars, however, it may be too much to ask for a more critical assessment of the subject and subjects, but I find that I can't help myself. I do like to be challenged more in nonfiction reads and to have an author present the subject from a variety of angles, rather than to rely too heavily on a formulaic journalistic device. The iron triangle of journalism—hero, villain, victim—is too closely adhered to; all of the protagonists are unblemished in their wholesome goodness, and their scrappy, sanctimonious, and uncompromising approaches are dotingly described as virtues. Reading uncritically, I was quite convinced that the Center for Biological Diversity single-handedly ended the timber industry in the Southwest, saved the polar bears, and will protect us all from global warming by transforming the Endangered Species Act. Mother Nature, whether in the guise of an adorable sea turtle or the rugged beauty of the Pata-

gonian forests and its araucaria trees, is the perfect passive, unsuspecting, and innocent victim. And of course, the villains are the usual cast of unredeemable and evil characters: corporate greed, Reagan and Watt, the US Forest Service (which, Hume notes, *hates* the Endangered Species Act), and George W. Bush.

In this light, the undercurrents and recurring unstated themes of the book did cause me to think of the age-old question of ends and means. These are all noble and motivated people, and their generosity and dedication cannot be denied. After all, I haven't purchased and preserved thousands of acres of pristine forests, but then I haven't made millions by marketing excess to a commercialistic society. That is, is it OK to exploit people and the planet at a global scale as long as I use some proportion of my wealth to buy and hold swaths of rainforest or the Maine countryside? When \$600,000 can buy 24,000 acres in Chile, but can't buy a condo in San Francisco, is it noble to ignore how much money we've made paving over our environment while praising ourselves for purchasing land somewhere else and locking it away so that country's poor citizens can't use it? Should we, as Tompkins did, feel surprised when the locals feel exploited and resistant, and perhaps insulted?

So, the book can be used on two levels: One, as a cheerful portrait of the people out there who are doing big things and using their fortunes to help Mother Earth; perhaps we can do good too. Alternatively, if we think and read a little deeper, we will ask ourselves if what the eco barons have done is always right and without downfalls and costs, which should lead to a little self-examination. Indeed, even though the book left me wanting just one more chapter that examined the hard questions, it also left me with the desire to put up some solar panels.

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The Big Thaw: Travels in the Melting North. Ed Struzik. Wiley, 2009. 288 pp., illus. \$26.95 (ISBN 9780470157282 cloth).

Biological Control of Tropical Weeds Using Arthropods. Rangaswamy Muniappan, Gadi V. P. Reddy, and Anantanarayanan Raman, eds. Cambridge University Press, 2009. 508 pp., illus. \$126.00 (ISBN 9780521877916 cloth).

The Biology of Caves and Other Subterranean Habitats. David C. Culver and Tanja Pipan. Oxford University Press, 2009. 272 pp., illus. \$60.00 (ISBN 9780199219933 paper).

Cold: Adventures in the World's Frozen Places. Bill Streever. Little, Brown, 2009. 320 pp., illus. \$24.99 (ISBN 9780316042918 cloth).

Conserving and Valuing Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity: Economic, Institutional, and Social Challenges. K. N. Ninan. Earthscan, 2009. 432 pp., illus. \$136.50 (ISBN 9781844076512 cloth).

Critical Transitions in Nature and Society. Marten Scheffer. Princeton University Press, 2009. 400 pp., illus. \$45.00 (ISBN 9780691122045 paper).

Dragonflies and Damselflies of the West. Dennis Paulson. Princeton University Press, 2009. 536 pp., illus. \$29.95 (ISBN 9780691122816 paper).

Ecosystem-based Management for the Oceans. Karen McLeod and Heather Leslie, eds. Island Press, 2009. 368 pp., illus. \$45.00 (ISBN 9781597261555 paper).

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Evolution and Ethics. Thomas Henry Huxley. Michael Ruse, ed. Princeton University Press, 2009. 176 pp. \$16.95 (ISBN 9780691141305 paper).

The Greatest Show on Earth: The Evidence for Evolution. Richard Dawkins. Simon and Schuster (Free Press), 2009. 480 pp., illus. \$30.00 (ISBN 9781416594789 cloth).

How We Live and Why We Die: The Secret Lives of Cells. Lewis Wolpert. W. W. Norton, 2009. 240 pp., illus. \$24.95 (ISBN 9780393072211 cloth).

Human Impacts on Salt Marshes: A Global Perspective. Brian R. Silliman, Edwin D. Grosholz, and Mark D. Bertness. University of California Press, 2009. 432 pp., illus. \$60.00 (ISBN 9780520258921 cloth).

Modern American Environmentalists: A Biographical Encyclopedia. George A. Cevasco and Richard P. Harmond. Johns Hopkins University Press, 2009. 576 pp. \$110.00 (ISBN 9780801891526 cloth).

Moths of Western North America. Jerry A. Powell and Paul A. Opler. University of California Press, 2009. 384 pp., illus. \$95.00 (ISBN 9780520251977 cloth).

An Odyssey with Animals: A Veterinarian's Reflections on the Animal Rights and Welfare Debate. Adrian R. Morrison. Oxford University Press, 2009. 272 pp., illus. \$29.95 (ISBN 9780195374445 cloth).

The Paleobiological Revolution: Essays on the Growth of Modern Paleontology. David Sepkoski and Michael Ruse, eds. University of Chicago Press, 2009. 584 pp., illus. \$65.00 (ISBN 9780226748610 cloth).

Seasons of Life: The Biological Rhythms that Enable Living Things to Thrive and Survive. Russell G. Foster and Leon Kreitzman. Yale University Press, 2009. 320 pp., illus. \$28.00 (ISBN 9780300115567 cloth).

Secularism and Science in the Twenty-first Century. Ariela Keysar and Barry A. Kosmin, eds. Institute for the Study of Secularism in Society and Culture, 2008. 224 pp., illus. \$10.00 (ISBN 9780615196343 paper).

Thermal Adaptation: A Theoretical and Empirical Synthesis. Michael J. Angilletta Jr. Oxford University Press, 2009. 320 pp., illus. \$65.00 (ISBN 9780198570882 paper).

The Three Cultures: Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, and the Humanities in the Twenty-first Century. Jerome Kagan. Cambridge University Press, 2009. 328 pp., illus. \$21.99 (ISBN 9780521732307 paper).

Why Evolution Works (and Creationism Fails). Matt Young and Paul K. Strode. Rutgers University Press, 2009. 264 pp., illus. \$21.95 (ISBN 9780813545509 paper).

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