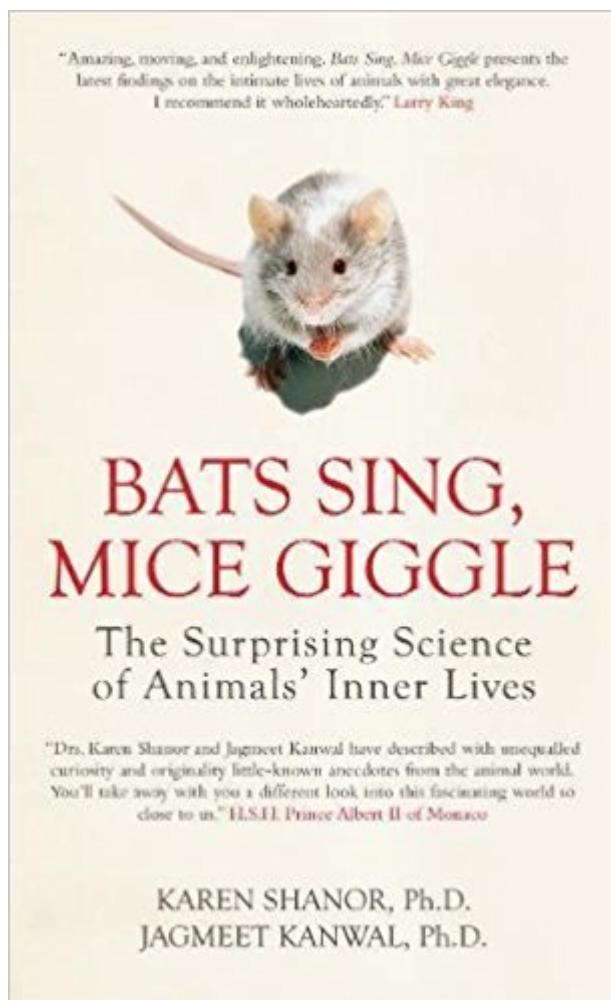


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Bats Sing, Mice Giggle: The Surprising Science Of Animals' Inner Lives



Synopsis

"Amazing, moving, and enlightening. Bats Sing, Mice Giggle presents the latest findings on the intimate lives of animals with great elegance. I recommend it wholeheartedly." - Larry King

Bats Sing, Mice Giggle is the culmination of years of fascinating scientific research that reveals how animals have secret inner lives of which, until recently, we had little proof. Karen Shanor and Jagmeet Kanwal take readers on an eye-opening voyage of discovery, showing how animals build, create, and communicate; expressing grief, joy, anger, and fear; which emphasizes just how animal we humans are. Karen Shanor lectures at Georgetown University and is a clinical psychologist and an advisor for the Discovery Channel's Animal Planet programs. Jagmeet Kanwal teaches at Georgetown University and is an internationally recognized neuroethologist.

Book Information

Paperback: 272 pages

Publisher: Icon Books; First Trade Paper Edition edition (August 23, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 9781848312234

ISBN-13: 978-1848312234

ASIN: 1848312237

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.8 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 18 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,244,693 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #89 in Books > Science & Math > Biological Sciences > Zoology > Animal Psychology #1018 in Books > Textbooks > Science & Mathematics > Biology & Life Sciences > Zoology #8115 in Books > Science & Math > Nature & Ecology > Fauna

Customer Reviews

'Amazing, moving and enlightening. 'Bats Sing, Mice Giggle' presents the latest findings on the intimate lives of animals with great elegance. I recommend it wholeheartedly.' -- Larry King

'Fascinating book...much to discover and some intriguing surprises.' -- Choice 'Packed with amazing research' -- School House Magazine 'Wonderful ... In the delightful process of discovering the secret skills of our living cousins, so crisply and clearly described in this book, each filled with their quirky spectacular capacities ... [my] sense of our place in the scheme of things has been infused with joyful awe.' -- The National Institute for Play

Karen Shanor, Ph.D is a neuropsychologist, a former White House consultant and an advisory member of Discovery Channel Global Education. At Stanford University she researched how rats learn, and how cats dream. Her work at NASA's Life Sciences department included animal research on memory and information theory, and she has taught with Karl Pribram at Georgetown university since 1998. As a Peace Corps science teacher in Somalia, she was a consultant for a wildlife conservatory. A frequent lecturer at the Smithsonian Institution, Karen also hosted an NBC radio program for five years and appears frequently on Larry King Live, CBS Nightly News, Dateline, The Today Show and Oprah, and is a regular contributor to CNN. Jagmeet Kanwal, Ph.D is an associate professor in the Department of Physiology and Biophysics and the Department of Psychology at Georgetown University in Washington, DC. He is also an external professor at the Krasnow Institute for Advanced Study in Fairfax, Virginia. Dr Kanwal is an internationally recognized neurologist who was the first to perform magnetic resonance imaging in awake animals. He is an expert on cortical mechanisms for the perception of complex sounds. Dr Kanwal discovered a left-brain dominance for species-specific calls in bats, as is present for speech in humans, and together with co-workers is engaged in cracking the code for the neural representation of social calls. Dr Kanwal's early contributions on the comparative organization of chemosensory systems include the discovery of taste centres in the forebrain of fish. He uses interdisciplinary approaches to understand the functional organization of the brain from the viewpoint of behaviour. He is also an ardent birdwatcher and keen nature photographer.

"Homo Sapiens" ("Homo Bubiensis"?) has always denied and ignored the inner lives of other animals. This charming and highly disciplined book goes a long way toward correcting this bias - at least for readers wise enough to take their science seriously as an imaginative discipline focused on the importance of framing adequate questions prior to adopting prematurely closed answers.

I almost quit reading after the 1st, introductory, chapter. I'm glad I didn't, because what this book adds to the recent crowd of similar books is worth persevering. Aside from a poorly written intro, it's hard to tell exactly how documented a lot of the more speculative statements are, because the references are connected only to a chapter, not to any particular part of the chapter. But the descriptions of the social lives of animals not covered in many similar books are fabulous. What animal NEVER leaves its burrow, not even to mate? (Yes, there is one.)

A lot of things you never knew you wanted to know about animals, particularly sensory systems that humans can not experience nor easily relate to. This is a scholarly (albeit sort of random in its selections) treatment of animal capabilities that manages to also be a "fun" read -- not an easy goal to achieve. I gave it 4 stars, occasionally I found myself wishing to get on to the next section without reading more of the science behind the current topic. That didn't happen frequently. A serious student of this subject matter would probably rate it lower for not delving deeper into the science.

Well written with so much information I never knew or thought about. Wonderful book!! Great to give as gifts, as well

All the talk about animals was interesting, but the info about plants was astounding. IT confirms the info in "The Secret Life of Plants", one of my alltime favorites. I have a peach tree that was ringed by a chipmunk. I have been talking to it nicely for months in hopes that it would decide to live. Now I don't feel like such a nut.

Very interesting premise. Well-researched and written. I thoroughly enjoyed it.

Bats Sing, Mice Giggle: The Surprising Science of Animals' Inner Lives reveals startling facts about animals (and a few plants). From mole rats communicating underground to plants sensing our presence, you will be amazed at the heretofore unimagined capabilities of living organisms. Told by two well-qualified Ph.D.'s to a general audience, the many stories in this book are to be treasured and shared.

This book is fascinating and informative but a little like a textbook at times. A great window into the animal world (our world)

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