

(Ebook pdf) The Overloaded Ark

The Overloaded Ark

Gerald Durrell

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Gerald Durrell : The Overloaded Ark before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Overloaded Ark:

16 of 16 people found the following review helpful. Where da beef? In this book, that's whereBy Samuel Krikorian Gerald Durrell spent most of his life collecting interesting animal specimens and Durrell is an interesting human specimen himself. His well chronicled life (mostly chronicled by Durrell) begins with the hilarious, and very succesfull, "My family and Other Animals". It is ably followed up with the equally hilarious "Birds, Beasts and Relatives". Both books are full of tales from the Durrell family's years on the Greek Island of Corfu, pre WWII. Little Gerry dives right into the flora and fauna of the island, including its human fauna. I own very few nonfiction books with such a plethora of memorable characters. Now, of course, we get to the volume in question. It is plenty good, and worth multiple readings over years, as is "A Zoo In My Luggage" and several other books detailing trips to collect animals. A word of warning, don't go nuts and buy all the zillion Durrell titles. Some of them are out of print for a reason and were most likely dashed off by Durrell to finance a collecting trip or two. If you read a sampling of .com reviews you will sniff these out and avoid wasting you hard earned lucre. And please, get "My Family and Other Animals and "Birds, Beasts and Relatives" right now, if you dont have them already.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A ClassicBy E.V.GrantA classic. Re-read it and enjoyed it just as much as I did when it was first published.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. DelightfulBy Ralph HeidenreichIt was very enjoyable to re-read this tale of animal collecting. It was fun meeting Gerald's sister, Margo, when I was on a cruise to Alaska in the mid 1970's. (She ran the gift shop. I told her that Gerald was one of my very favorite authors. I also mentioned that

I had not read any of her brother Lawrence's novels. She said. "you didn't miss much...they are so DULL!" What a comment by a sister! Over the years I have read almost all of Gerald's animal tales. It is too bad that he is no longer with us.

Gerald Durrell, director and owner of Jersey Zoo, was internationally famous for his amusing books about collecting wild animals, in particular *My Family and Other Animals*. But *The Overloaded Ark*, his first, remains his funniest book. It describes an expedition to the remote territory of the Cameroons in West Africa, before independence. "A delightful book...You can feel his bush-shirt sticking to his back...Bagging a monitor, smoking out a Pangolin (scaly anteater), celebrating the capture of the rare Angwantibo (small lemur), bird liming for Giant Kingfishers on the warm, milky waters of Lake Soden: he communicates every detail of his experiences with just the right degree of zest." (New Statesman).

About the Author Gerald Durrell was a world-famous naturalist, animal-collector and conservationist. Born in India in 1925, and having lived in Jamshedpur, Corfu and Crystal Palace, he eventually founded Jersey Zoo in 1959. He was a lifelong lover of animals, and after taking numerous trips to collect exotic wildlife for the zoo, he founded the Jersey Wildlife Conservation Trust in 1963. He also wrote numerous well-loved books about his glamorous and not-so-glamorous experiences, his most famous works being *My Family and other Animals* and *The Overloaded Ark*. From AudioFile This account of Gerald Durrell's 1953 trip to the Cameroons to collect live reptiles, birds and mammals for British zoos is filled with hair-raising and hysterical adventures. It was the first professional collecting trip to the region and was also Durrell's first visit to Africa. Nigel Davenport captures all of Durrell's enthusiasm and naïveté--as well as the pain of being stung by wasps and the fear that results from almost falling on top of a very large monitor lizard. Davenport also renders pidgin (the lingua franca of European-African communication) both credible and comprehensible. The reading is so persuasive that the listener becomes a member of the expedition. Leopards, anyone? R.E.K. (c) AudioFile, Portland, Maine