

The Ark's Anniversary

Gerald Durrell

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A prolific author who never fails to be entertaining, Durrell brings us up to date on his Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust. Ever since he was six years old, Durrell knew he wanted to have his own zoo. How he accomplished that--and became a respected naturalist in the process--will delight readers. Demonstrating a talent for presenting strong conservation issues in a humorous and captivating way, Durrell covers not only the development of his private zoo but the associated education activities as well (including a school for conservationists from foreign countries). Dedicated to the idea that zoos need not be a "sterile Victorian menagerie", he has earned the respect of colleagues worldwide in showing how zoos can be a vital force in the conservation and reintroduction of threatened species to their native environments. Readers will also enjoy such amusing incidents as a visit from Princess Anne and the chimps that came to dinner. A title to put on your reading list for a lighthearted romp through the animal kingdom.

The Ark's Anniversary Details

Date : Published September 1st 1991 by Arcade Pub (first published 1990)

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Author : Gerald Durrell

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From Reader Review The Ark's Anniversary for online ebook

Robert says

In this book Durrell writes about how he set up his so and the trials in managing to make it a conservatory.

As such it is dull in places, the only parts of interest is the birth of a gorilla and a dinner party where Grace Kelly is a guest. Other than that it's just tons of detail. It's ok if you are a collector but don't get this if you're new to Durrell.

Liz says

This is the story of Gerald Durrell's "Ark" – the Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust on the Isle of Jersey in the English Channel. This is no ordinary zoo, but an extraordinary and visionary educational and conservation organization. Here, endangered animals are bred in captivity with an eye to their eventual return to the wild to form breeding colonies that will keep the species from extinction. Here, people from all over the world are trained in conservation and captive breeding, enabled to return to their own countries as guardians of the living world there. What a story – what a place – what a man! The world is infinitely richer because Gerald Durrell lived.

Rishi Prakash says

This was my first Gerald Durrell and I can definitely see me reading all his books sooner than later! An amazing guy to say the least, he will be always remembered for his immense contributions to preserve the rich diversity of animal life on our planet. The Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust continues to take his work forward in all sincerity. The phrase " If you have zest and enthusiasm you attract zest and enthusiasm " is apt to summarise what he did during his life time.

The statement by Dr. Iliff (Ex-President of the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquaria)- " If you ask People which is the best zoo in the world some say San Diego, some say Bronx. But if you ask zoo people themselves, people professionally involved with zoos, inducting zoo directors, they say the Jersey Zoo"- clearly signifies the contribution of THE Gerald Durrell. He changed the way how people look at zoos by his sheer passion and dedication which lasted all his life time.

This book was written to celebrate 25th anniversary of the great Zoo with few anecdotes along with the final celebration which was organised to mark the landmark year. Real good book and a must read for all animal lovers.

Marian Fern says

The importance of relocating the ark

This is a more serious book than the usual Durrell tales. Educating the reader on the importance of breeding

and releasing endangered animals back into a suitable habitat. However there are still a few giggles along the way

Msyoung says

Durrell uses the 25th anniversary of his Jersey Wildlife Trust on the Isle of Jersey (essentially, Durrell's zoo that focuses on conservationism) to highlight his life's mission and the achievements of his "Ark." This book is really informational. In fact, it has a much more informational bent than Durrell's other memoirs.

Although it starts in his typical fashion with witty one-liners and hilariously improbable real-life experiences, the majority of his book follows the more serious message of spreading the message of conservationism. He details the many species that have become extinct and are in danger of becoming extinct. He explains the petty, ridiculous, and occasionally horrible human errors that have led to these losses.

I completely respect and support Durrell's message. I am amazed and in awe at what Durrell and the many organizations/people he is affiliated with have been able to accomplish – truly, it is remarkable! If you are looking to learn more about conservation efforts and the value of sanctuaries/worldwide cooperation in saving the world's flora and fauna, definitely read this! If you are looking for an uplifting and entertaining collection of laugh-out-loud animal experiences, I would suggest you pick up one of Durrell's many other books. Although I came away from reading this feeling rather educated, it didn't pack the humorous punch for which I was hoping.

Sneh says

the incident where two chimpanzees came calling for tea left me in fits... I think I am more likely to finish this first...while I am still turning the leaf in Half of a yellow sun...it captures history but the characters are taking too long to evolve...its an experience like being fond of sula but having to drink say...umm...grovers.

Jennybeast says

This one is more about conservation, and the adventures of actually running a zoo. Unfortunately, it reads more like a never-ending sales pitch than any of Durrell's other memoirs, but it's still a lot of interesting information, with his trademark storyteller's voice -- and it's still an extraordinary story, when you think about what the Jersey Trust has accomplished.

Helen says

If I had a million dollars I would give them to Durrell's Wildlife Conservation Trust. As he stated in the book (and I paraphrase) there is always money to fund a bomb, gun or other instrument of destruction, but little of saving our world.

Lectura infaltable para cualquier amante de los animales y la naturaleza, especialmente para aquellos que creen que los zoológicos no tienen razón de ser ni aportan a la conservación.

Kaustubh Dudhane says

Initially, I thought what a savage zoo keeper Gerald Durrell is! Keeping animals in captivity and all that bullshit. However, Durrell has bred soon-to-be extinct animals into captivity. Eventually he had released them and their offsprings into wild after proper training of adapting to the wild environment. The book is full of humorous anecdotes. Moreover, it is also saga of continuous fight with the bureaucracy. A funny ride into the magical world of orangutans, tapirs, gorillas, pink pigeons, and many wild creatures.
