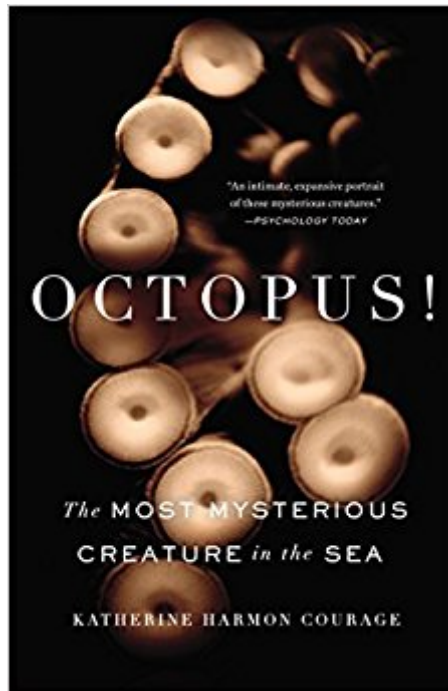




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Octopus!: The Most Mysterious Creature In The Sea



Synopsis

“A pleasant, chatty book on a fascinating subject.” Kirkus Reviews
Octopuses have been captivating humans for as long as we have been catching them. Yet for all of our ancient fascination and modern research, we still have not been able to get a firm grasp on these enigmatic creatures. Katherine Harmon Courage dives into the mystifying underwater world of the octopus and reports on her research around the world. She reveals, for instance, that the oldest known octopus lived before the first dinosaurs; that two thirds of an octopus's brain capacity is spread throughout its arms, meaning each literally has a mind of its own; and that it can change colors within milliseconds to camouflage itself, yet appears to be colorblind.

Book Information

File Size: 11054 KB

Print Length: 254 pages

Publisher: Current (October 31, 2013)

Publication Date: October 31, 2013

Sold by: Penguin Group (USA) LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00C5R7IP6

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #573,294 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #17

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Invertebrates

Customer Reviews

I bought this looking for more knowledge on these fascinating creatures and this book taught me how to catch and cook them. Very offended.

This was written by a non-scientist magazine writer for the non-scientist. It is easy to read and normally fun but just a bit too many attempts at octo-humor. I would have preferred a more in-depth study and less on eating octopus. I don't read cookbooks. I'm no where near a PETA person but I'm sure this book will drive them crazy as eating Octopus seems to be a main theme including the entire first chapter. The treatment of the Giant Squid in "Kraken: The Curious, Exciting, and Slightly Disturbing Science of Squid" by Wendy Williams is more what I was expecting of this book. Don't misread me - the book was interesting, informative and fun to read and I give it four stars for that, HOWEVER, the sparse black and white pictures were both horrible quality and rarely added to the story. They seemed very random and unnecessary. I'd have kept this review at 4 stars sans "photos" or whatever they were. (Black and White Blurry unimportant images would be a better term) I'd check this one out from the library and not add it to your own.

I only wish that the author had included more photos, especially in color. Octopuses are such amazing and intelligent creatures, but her book is a bit too much like a textbook. I was disappointed that there were very few photos.

Octopusses are fascinating, highly intelligent and alluring animals. Not nearly enough of that comes through in this book, which emphasizes the culinary delight of dining on calamari, the details of octopus harvesting, and the complex chemistry of the animal's various organs. Yes, there's information about their behavior and intelligence too, especially in the second half-hence three stars instead of two. The dry, scientific tone often lacks immediacy and liveliness, and at several points I found myself counting the pages to the next chapter. There's a bit more humor and verve in the second half. And the book is well-researched. But did we really need to know about a diving expedition during which the author saw not a single octopus? Did we really need to hear the author enthuse about her experience of dining on a fresh, still wriggling octopus tentacle-a practice and mode of preparation condemned by PETA? In most of the book, Ms. Courage maintains a tone of aloof detachment that I found off-putting.

Loved it !! Octopuses are so very smart. The book keeps you entertained by the author's travels to unravel the mystery of this brilliant cephalopod.

This was a gift for a relative who loves invertebrates. She reported that it is good reading; interesting, entertaining, and informative without being dry.

Love it. Thorough and an easy, interesting read. Lots of cool info to share with guests when we see an octopus on a dive (I work as a dive instructor/guide).

Surprising animal - easy to read content - best reading in past month. I keep entertaining my friends quoting from it.

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