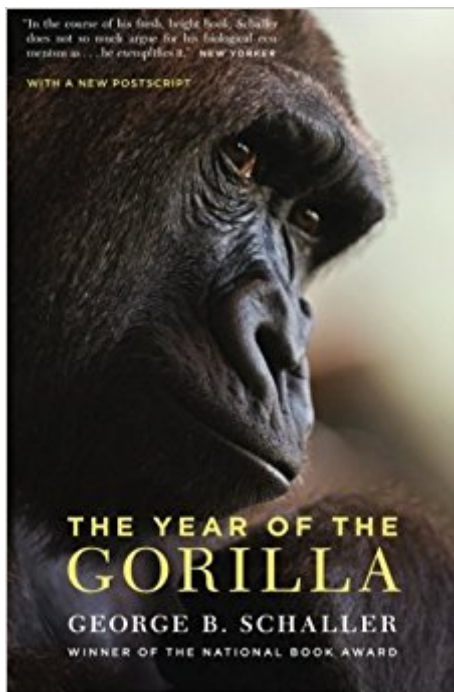


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# The Year Of The Gorilla



## Synopsis

This seminal work chronicles George B. Schaller's two years of travel and observation of gorillas in East and Central Africa in the late 1950s, high in the Virunga volcanoes on the Zaire-Rwanda-Uganda border. There, he learned that these majestic animals, far from being the aggressive apes of film and fiction, form close-knit societies of caring mothers and protective fathers watching over playful young. Alongside his observations of gorilla society, Schaller celebrates the enforced yet splendid solitude of the naturalist, recounts the adventures he experienced along the way, and offers a warning against poaching and other human threats against these endangered creatures. This edition features a postscript detailing Schaller's more recent visits with gorillas, current to 2009. Whether the author is tracking gorillas, slipping past elephant herds on narrow jungle paths, avoiding poachers' deadfalls, or routing Watusi invaders, this is an exciting book. Although Schaller feels that this is not an adventure book, few readers will be able to agree. - Irven DeVore, Science

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Whether the author is tracking gorillas, slipping past elephant herds on narrow jungle paths, avoiding poachers' deadfalls, or routing Watusi invaders, this is an exciting book. Although Schaller feels that this is 'not an adventure book,' few readers will be able to agree." - Irven DeVore, Science

"In the course of his fresh, bright book, Schaller does not so much argue for his biological

ecumenism as - talking, walking, doing, going, describing - he exemplifies it." - Naomi Bliven, New Yorker"

George B. Schaller is a senior conservationist at the Wildlife Conservation Society and Vice President of Panthera, a foundation devoted to the conservation of wild cats. He is the author of many books, including *The Mountain Gorilla* and *The Last Panda*, both published by the University of Chicago Press.

Very outdated and drawn out but educational

After reading Schaller's book I can't recommend it highly enough to others, either interested in natural science, gorillas, or just want a great read.

A splendid story from one of our premier wildlife conservationists and activists. Reveals the ordinary lives of extraordinary gorillas and people.

The book was awesome. Very descriptive, explained the landscape, the behavior of gorillas, but also the people involved. Thoroughly enjoyed it!

Mr Schaller was a pioneer in the study of the mountain gorillas and this work recounts his studies undertaken in what was later known as Zaire in the early 1960 just prior to independence (and subsequent spiral into civil war and violence which has yet to see an end). His insights into gorilla behavior and his adventures into areas wholly unknown to West at the time are very entertaining. I especially enjoyed the very first chapter which provided a comprehensive overview of the history of the discovery of the gorilla by Westerners.

This is the fascinating story of the author's expedition to study Mountain Gorillas in 1959-60. Told as a detailed narrative, it is as much an adventure story as a scientific analysis. From the riveting first encounter with a family of gorillas through the identification of several distinct groups, their daily routine is revealed. The gentleness that Schaller found dispelled many long held myths about Gorilla behavior. Beyond the gorillas, this is also the complete story of a region, its people and other flora and fauna. The issues of preservation of these animals and their habitat are much the same as those faced today. This is the documentation of an important pioneering work that paved the way for

Fossey and other researchers who would follow. Illustrated with photos and maps, it is a compelling read from cover to cover.

"Dr. George" is simply one of the great naturalists of our time, and writes in such a delightful and interesting manner, that even though his topics are not always my favored subject matter, he causes me to love what was not a passion. The profound gifts of this brilliant scientist includes always being clear and making you feel present, and has made him a top world expert on any topic he handles. He is simply a treasure who is able to make his explorations profoundly satisfying.

George Schaller takes you with him as he goes to the Virunga Volcanoes to study the Gorillas. He takes a look at the gorillas, but with a more personal approach than with "The Mountain Gorilla". Instead of pouring out scientific facts, he shares with you some of his feelings and experiences as he watched them. This was a refreshing look at the life of gorillas from his own perspective. I would recommend it to anyone with an interest in Gorillas.

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