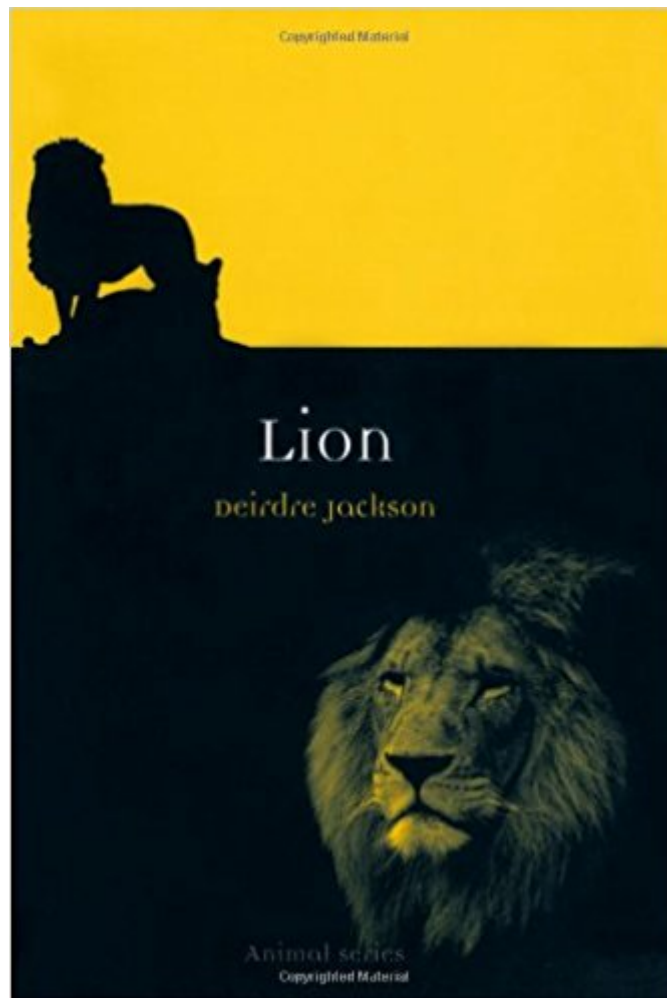


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Lion (Animal)



Synopsis

Although the lion is not the largest, fastest or most lethal animal, its position as king of beasts has rarely been challenged. Since Palaeolithic times, lions have fascinated people, and due to its gallant mane, knowing eyes, and distinctive roar, the animal continues to beguile us today. In *Lion*, Deirdre Jackson paints a fresh portrait of this regal beast, drawing on folktales, the latest scientific research, and even lion-tamers' memoirs, as well as other little-known sources to tell the story of lions famous and anonymous, familiar and surprising. Majestic, noble, brave "the lion is an animal that has occupied a great place in the human imagination, inspiring countless myths, lore and legends. As well, this creative relationship has abounded in visual culture "painted on wood and canvas, chiseled in stone, hammered in metal, and tucked between the pages of medieval manuscripts, lions have often represented divinity, dignity, and danger. In *Lion* Jackson summarizes the latest findings of field biologists and offers in-depth analyses of works of art, literature, oral traditions, plays, and films. She is a peerless guide on a memorable visual and cultural safari.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Deirdre Jackson's elegant exploration of the frankly rather dull life of the Lion will appeal even to those who would never normally pick up a book on the natural world." • (Mary Beard Guardian)

Deirdre Jackson is a project officer in the catalogue of illuminated manuscripts in the British Library and a former research associate at the University of Oxford. She is also the author of *Marvellous to Behold: Miracles in Medieval Manuscripts*.

This is excellently written and very well illustrated. I've read dozens of the books in this "Animal" series, and while all are good, this one stands out. Jackson knows her material, is passionate about lions and the result is a very informative book that is a pleasure to read. I hope that doesn't sound too much like a rave, but this is a good book. Of all animals human culture is aware of, lions may resonate the most. Lions feature in heraldry and have for a very long time been a potent symbol of power, and a descriptor of regal majesty--as in the title *The Lion of Judah*. That may be what gives this volume much of its interest. As with others in the series, there is natural history of the animal, but more about the interplay of beast and culture, including legend, parables, fables, novels, poetry, film, and all the visual arts. The photos and other illustrations give a reader a very good sense of all this. Think of the common images: Daniel in the Lion's den. The lion sculptures outside the New York Public Library. The British lion (long a symbol). African warriors wearing lion skins. Lion tamers. The book starts with natural history and lions in the wild, then to "Captive Cats," about the animals in zoos, carnivals and other settings. Chapter 3 is "Lion Lore and Legend." Chapter 4 is "in Pursuit" of lions--hunting and such. Chapter 5, "Golden Remnant" looks at the grim situation of lions remaining.

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