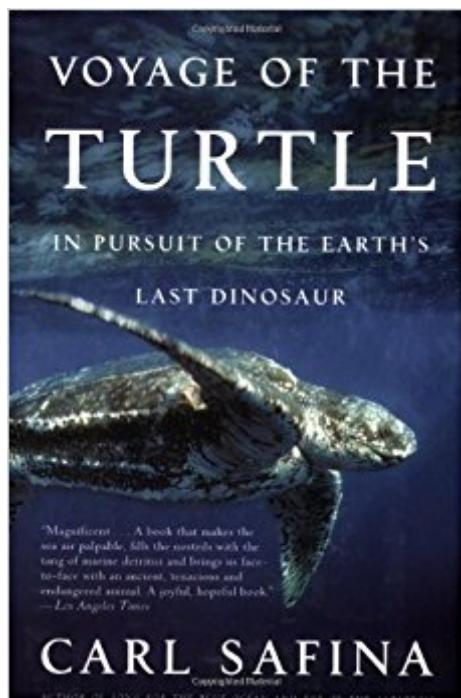


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Voyage Of The Turtle: In Pursuit Of The Earth's Last Dinosaur



Synopsis

The story of an ancient sea turtle and what its survival says about our future, from the award-winning writer and naturalist Though nature is indifferent to the struggles of her creatures, the human effect on them is often premeditated. The distressing decline of sea turtles in Pacific waters and their surprising recovery in the Atlantic illuminate what can go both wrong and right from our interventions, and teach us the lessons that can be applied to restore health to the world's oceans and its creatures. As Voyage of the Turtle, Carl Safina's compelling natural history adventure makes clear, the fate of the astonishing leatherback turtle, whose ancestry can be traced back 125 million years, is in our hands. Writing with verve and color, Safina describes how he and his colleagues track giant pelagic turtles across the world's oceans and onto remote beaches of every continent. As scientists apply lessons learned in the Atlantic and Caribbean to other endangered seas, Safina follows leatherback migrations, including a thrilling journey from Monterey, California, to nesting grounds on the most remote beaches of Papua, New Guinea. The only surviving species of its genus, family, and suborder, the leatherback is an evolutionary marvel: a "reptile" that behaves like a warm-blooded dinosaur, an ocean animal able to withstand colder water than most fishes and dive deeper than any whale. In his peerless prose, Safina captures the delicate interaction between these gentle giants and the humans who are finally playing a significant role in their survival. "Magnificent . . . A joyful, hopeful book. Safina gives us ample reasons to be enthralled by this astonishing ancient animalâ •and ample reasons to care." -- The Los Angeles Times

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Customer Reviews

Starred Review. MacArthur fellow and John Burroughs Awardâ "winner Safina (Song for the Blue Ocean) presents an impassioned account of the plight of ocean-dwelling turtles, especially the largest, the leatherback, "the closest thing we have to a living dinosaur." Leatherbacks, which can weigh over a ton, range the oceans to nesting sites on beaches along the Atlantic and Pacific seabords. Safina travels to many of these sites, bringing the reader into the turtles' world as he describes how the females leave the ocean, cross sandy beaches, dig huge pits using their flippers as spades, lay their eggs and then creep back into the sea. He shows how precarious this world is; nature's dangers are always present, but it's human activities that threaten the turtles with extinction: poaching, longline fishing nets in which the turtles can drown and depletion of the turtles' food supply due to overfishing and global warming. There are remedies, such as intensive nest-saving programs, but these take time to implement, and time is running out for the turtles. Safina's eloquent book is a battle cry in the struggle for the survival of one of the world's most beautiful and endangered creatures. Maps. (June 27) Copyright Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Adult/High Schoolâ "This book is Safina's personal journal of the migration of the leatherback, loggerhead, and green turtles. These aquatic creatures of reptilian descent wander throughout the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. Eventually they die in captivity because they don't understand boundaries. This limitless ocean life is in jeopardy due to long-line fishing, poaching, and commercial development along the beaches of Trinidad and Mexico, where they nest. The author is passionate about conservation efforts, describing the eco-tourist work of Nature Seekers and the legal efforts of Oceana in protecting the now critically endangered leatherback turtles. More than a chronicle of attempts to save the species, Turtle captures the physical magnitude of these ancient creatures and the repetitive calm of their endless travels. Safina's simple and deeply personal style captures both the mystery of the leatherbacks' life cycle and the need to develop a global understanding of their plight to survive. This title will quickly become a part of the classroom libraries of those teaching life science and ecology.â "Brigeen Radoicich, Fresno County Office of Education, CA Copyright Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

A compelling story full of facts, first hand accounts, science, and, politics. An addictive read that not

only explains the complicated story behind the saving of this species, but does so in such a completely honest and fair manner. One can understand how we all- environmentalists, fishermen, government politicians, and the general public- are fighting for the same thing, conservation of our planets endangered resources. Rare to find a book which tells the whole story, from every angle, without bias for anything besides the endangered creature itself. Even rarer to find one written in such a easy to read and addictive flow. Hard to put down and a recommended read for anyone interested in our oceans.

Love all of his books.

This treatise on the worldwide exploitation and decimation of the various turtle species is very well written, exhaustively researched and scientifically sound. Safina literally travels the earth in search of well known turtle nesting sites. He assimilates with numerous conservation groups to document their efforts to preserve turtle nesting sites. By boat, airplane, helicopter and on foot we find Safina scouring beaches in South America, Mexico, Indonesia and many other known turtle habitats. He joins in expeditions working through the night to count and protect nesting sites. He tries to help with education efforts with local indigenous cultures to teach them the value of conservation and protection. You will learn about leatherbacks, loggerheads and other turtle species. Add to that the outstanding writing of Safina and I highly recommend this book.

The author offers his insight into the problems faced by these amazing creatures. Most of which are caused by human encroachment. He also brings to light what is being done to help restore their numbers. He offers hope for the future. It is a must read.

Great information about Leatherback turtles and raises many good conservation issues challenging not only leatherbacks but also loggerheads, greens, and hawksbills..

So grateful for this book which helped me in my thinking (and future action!) about environmental issues. Toward the end of his absorbing and beautifully written exploration, the author comes to this conclusion about the fate of the endangered turtles: You dodge despair by not taking the deluge of problems full-bore. You focus on what can work, what can help, or what you can do, and you seize it, and then - you don't let go. He also champions LOCAL solutions. Bless you, Carl Safina!

I have read just about every book regarding sea turtles over the past 40 years. This book by Carl Safina is at the top of the list !! The facts he contains are new and very recent. His focus on the leatherback sea turtle is remarkable and much needed as this is the turtle we know the least about. It is a mix of data, sociology, history and philosophy all told as a story and gives an entire picture of the natural history of the leatherback. Dont miss this one !!Larry Cartmill, Ph.D.Herpetology Instructor

Full disclosure: Carl is a colleague. But as a natural history author myself, I put Carl up there with David Quammen. The real star here is the turtle, which is a remarkable creature. Good read.

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