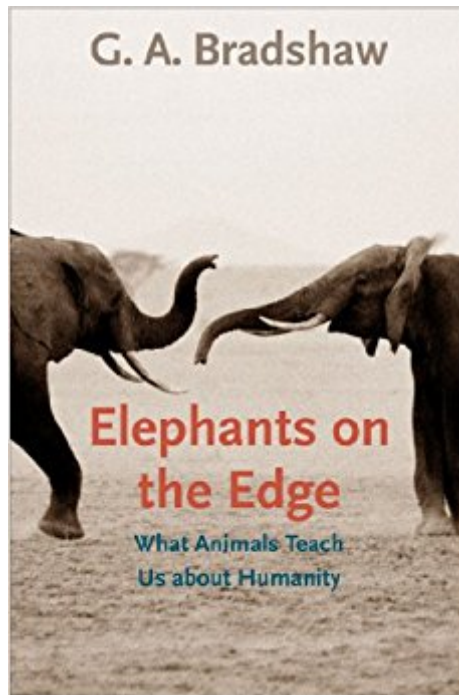




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Elephants On The Edge: What Animals Teach Us About Humanity



Synopsis

Drawing on accounts from India to Africa and California to Tennessee, and on research in neuroscience, psychology, and animal behavior, G. A. Bradshaw explores the minds, emotions, and lives of elephants. Wars, starvation, mass culls, poaching, and habitat loss have reduced elephant numbers from more than ten million to a few hundred thousand, leaving orphans bereft of the elders who would normally mentor them. As a consequence, traumatized elephants have become aggressive against people, other animals, and even one another; their behavior is comparable to that of humans who have experienced genocide, other types of violence, and social collapse. By exploring the elephant mind and experience in the wild and in captivity, Bradshaw bears witness to the breakdown of ancient elephant cultures. All is not lost. People are working to save elephants by rescuing orphaned infants and rehabilitating adult zoo and circus elephants, using the same principles psychologists apply in treating humans who have survived trauma. Bradshaw urges us to support these and other models of elephant recovery and to solve pressing social and environmental crises affecting all animals, human or not.

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Customer Reviews

Not only a lot to think about here as to the treatment of elephants but very interesting thoughts on the workings of the brain of humans as well. This book made me not want to ever again go to a zoo and see an elephant standing swaying to and fro. Now I understand how much that animal was suffering. As a matter of fact I do not find a trip to the zoo something to look forward to at all.

I read Elephants on the Edge when it was first published. Although disturbing in terms of humanity's involvement in decimating intelligent social wild beings, surely this book would educate us. It is intense and seriously written so that we may know the truth about ourselves. Unfortunately, even if our society has started to focus on preservation, other societies have started to pursue ivory, and have learned to systematically and brutally kill elephants. We have not yet learned about humanity.

Dr. Bradshaw has written a book that will forever change the way you think of other animals. Her thought provoking work has given a voice to the suffering of nonhuman animals. I highly recommend this book to all readers.

inspiring story, just wish it weren't happening. Gay Bradshaw is doing terrific work with her center and made a huge impact on the world of conservation with this book.

The beautiful and the painful truth.

An amazingly interesting book. I was so pleasantly surprised by the intellectuals of different fields that are incorporated into the explanations of behaviors and thought processes...of elephants, mankind and a host of other species.

Great insight into elephants and their plight. Very informative and thoughtful. This book really makes me worry about what's going to become of these amazing creatures because of man.

"Elephants on the Edge" is a profoundly moving and insightful book. I read the book when it was first published and now with elephant populations seriously depleted by poaching I was drawn to read portions of the book again-just to remind my self what unique, intelligent and terribly abused creatures elephants are.

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