



The Book of Barely Imagined Beings: A 21st Century Bestiary

By Caspar Henderson



Download



Read Online



Get Print Book

The Book of Barely Imagined Beings: A 21st Century Bestiary By Caspar Henderson

From medieval bestiaries to Borges's *Book of Imaginary Beings*, we've long been enchanted by extraordinary animals, be they terrifying three-headed dogs or asps impervious to a snake charmer's song. But bestiaries are more than just zany zoology—they are artful attempts to convey broader beliefs about human beings and the natural order. Today, we no longer fear sea monsters or banshees. But from the infamous honey badger to the giant squid, animals continue to captivate us with the things they can do and the things they cannot, what we know about them and what we don't.

With *The Book of Barely Imagined Beings*, Caspar Henderson offers readers a fascinating, beautifully produced modern-day menagerie. But whereas medieval bestiaries were often based on folklore and myth, the creatures that abound in Henderson's book—from the axolotl to the zebrafish—are, with one exception, very much with us, albeit sometimes in depleted numbers. *The Book of Barely Imagined Beings* transports readers to a world of real creatures that seem as if they should be made up—that are somehow more astonishing than anything we might have imagined. The yeti crab, for example, uses its furry claws to farm the bacteria on which it feeds. The waterbear, meanwhile, is among nature's "extreme survivors," able to withstand a week unprotected in outer space. These and other strange and surprising species invite readers to reflect on what we value—or fail to value—and what we might change.

A powerful combination of wit, cutting-edge natural history, and philosophical meditation, *The Book of Barely Imagined Beings* is an infectious and inspiring celebration of the sheer ingenuity and variety of life in a time of crisis and change.



[Download The Book of Barely Imagined Beings: A 21st Century ...pdf](#)



[Read Online The Book of Barely Imagined Beings: A 21st Centu ...pdf](#)

The Book of Barely Imagined Beings: A 21st Century Bestiary

By Caspar Henderson

The Book of Barely Imagined Beings: A 21st Century Bestiary By Caspar Henderson

From medieval bestiaries to Borges's *Book of Imaginary Beings*, we've long been enchanted by extraordinary animals, be they terrifying three-headed dogs or asps impervious to a snake charmer's song. But bestiaries are more than just zany zoology—they are artful attempts to convey broader beliefs about human beings and the natural order. Today, we no longer fear sea monsters or banshees. But from the infamous honey badger to the giant squid, animals continue to captivate us with the things they can do and the things they cannot, what we know about them and what we don't.

With *The Book of Barely Imagined Beings*, Caspar Henderson offers readers a fascinating, beautifully produced modern-day menagerie. But whereas medieval bestiaries were often based on folklore and myth, the creatures that abound in Henderson's book—from the axolotl to the zebrafish—are, with one exception, very much with us, albeit sometimes in depleted numbers. *The Book of Barely Imagined Beings* transports readers to a world of real creatures that seem as if they should be made up—that are somehow more astonishing than anything we might have imagined. The yeti crab, for example, uses its furry claws to farm the bacteria on which it feeds. The waterbear, meanwhile, is among nature's "extreme survivors," able to withstand a week unprotected in outer space. These and other strange and surprising species invite readers to reflect on what we value—or fail to value—and what we might change.

A powerful combination of wit, cutting-edge natural history, and philosophical meditation, *The Book of Barely Imagined Beings* is an infectious and inspiring celebration of the sheer ingenuity and variety of life in a time of crisis and change.

The Book of Barely Imagined Beings: A 21st Century Bestiary By Caspar Henderson Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #761109 in Books
- Published on: 2013-04-10
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.00" h x 1.60" w x 6.00" l, 1.90 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 448 pages

 [Download The Book of Barely Imagined Beings: A 21st Century ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Book of Barely Imagined Beings: A 21st Centu ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The Book of Barely Imagined Beings: A 21st Century Bestiary By Caspar Henderson

Editorial Review

Review

"*The Book of Barely Imagined Beings* is one that Pliny would have envied, Darwin applauded, and Borges relished. It celebrates the playful imagination of the universe, capable of dreaming up the zebrafish and the yeti crab; it also celebrates our delight in reading in claws and feathers lessons about our own miraculous self. In these days of doom and gloom, I can think of nothing more rejoicing than Caspar Henderson's magical book."

(Alberto Manguel, author of *The Library at Night*)

"Wondrous, capacious and strange."

(Simon Critchley, author of *The Book of Dead Philosophers*)

"If you're interested, as I am, in weird details about weird animals, this is the book for you. Caspar Henderson takes us on an eye-opening tour of real animals that no sane human could ever have invented."

(Frans de Waal, author of *The Age of Empathy*)

"A sublime rumination on existence. In twenty-seven exquisitely crafted cameos, Caspar Henderson reveals the hidden wonders of life in all its exuberant strangeness, at the same time illuminating our own place in the world. Simply stunning."

(Callum Roberts, author of *Ocean of Life*)

"Caspar Henderson is a zoological Borges, taking us on a fascinating and exhilarating journey through the labyrinth of natural history. This book is a brilliant and original meditation on what the animal world can teach us about who we are and who we want to be. It weaves an unforgettable spell."

(Roman Krznaric, author of *The Wonderbox*)

"A wonderful book! With the precision of a scientist, the elegance of an artist, and the minatory power of an Old Testament prophet, Caspar Henderson exhorts us to pay attention to the other species on our endangered planet and learn from them before it is too late."

(Richard Holloway)

"An utterly extraordinary book: a glorious and genre-bending grimoire; a spell-book of species that entranced me from its first page. Wonderful in the richest senses of the word, as well as witty, moving, urgent, and beautiful."

(Robert Macfarlane, author of *The Wild Places* and *The Old Ways*)

"A rich mixture of science, mythology, and literature, whose plethora of entertaining digressions left me impressed."

(Richard Fortey, author of *Horseshoe Crabs* and *Velvet Worms*)

"Tangentially inspired by Jorge Luis Borges's *Book of Imaginary Beings*, and assembled like a cabinet of curiosities, journalist Caspar Henderson's first book highlights what nonhuman species reveal about being human. The disarmingly human face of the Axolotl salamander introduces a reflection on evolution, which wanders into the history of the Spanish conquest of Mexico, before landing on the question of what the

Axolotl's ability to regenerate limbs can reveal about stem cells. It's an oddly anthropomorphic argument to abandon anthropomorphism, but as exotic salamanders and transparent octopi give way to miniscule water bears, whiskered owlets, and the honey badger, Henderson's contagious awe of life effortlessly advances his argument. The captivating habits of these beings are given significant scientific backbone, before digressing into a free-flowing discourse."

(*Publishers Weekly*)

"Present knowledge, together with environmental trouble, make it a natural time to update the bestiary in writing, and to tour nature's brilliance in light of honest science. That's exactly what the English author Caspar Henderson has done with his *The Book of Barely Imagined Beings: A 21st Century Bestiary*."

(*New Yorker* 2013-05-16)

"This readable volume will appeal to the serious reader with broad interests in science, mythology, folklore, and speculation on questions of the human condition."

(*Library Journal* 2013-05-15)

"Book of the year."

(*Blackwell's Bookshop*)

"Magnificent, bravura, beautiful and astoundingly interesting."

(*Sunday Times*)

"Spell-binding, brilliantly executed, extraordinary."

(*Guardian*)

"When it comes to nature, the truth is often stranger and more wondrous than fiction, especially in Caspar Henderson's *Book of Barely Imagined Beings*. The book illustrates the weird and wild histories of unusual—but real—species, including human beings, offering the reader elaborate illustrations, annotations, and much lore. And lurking in the margins is Henderson's suggestion that just as a medieval bestiary's mythical monsters reveal the values of a bygone era, the creatures that fascinate us today reveal much about us."

(*Nature Conservancy* 2013-06-01)

"As humanity begins to grapple with the likelihood of extraterrestrial life, we're also reaching a fuller understanding of just how alien organisms can be right here on Earth. It is against this backdrop that Caspar Henderson offers *The Book of Barely Imagined Beings*, an illustrated, alphabetical compendium of some of the weirdest, wildest forms of life on Earth. . . . Henderson approaches his material with a deep respect for evolutionary science and a sophisticated understanding of the ways humans have tried to make sense of the natural world and our place in it."

(*Bookforum* 2013-07-15)

"A beautiful work that celebrates Earth's extraordinary species, with the look and feel of a Victorian treatise."

(*Nature* 2013-07-15)

"With illumination-style flourishes, hand-drawn illustrations, and in-margin notes, from a purely aesthetic and bibliophilic point of view, *The Book of Barely Imagined Beings* is as magical as its name suggests. . . . Both aesthetically pleasing and scientifically intriguing, it would make an inspiring addition to any natural history collection."

(*Evolve Magazine, Natural History Museum* 2013-08-01)

About the Author

Caspar Henderson is a writer and journalist whose work has appeared in the *Financial Times*, the *Independent*, and *New Scientist*. He lives in Oxford, UK.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Stacey Smith:

Why don't make it to be your habit? Right now, try to prepare your time to do the important act, like looking for your favorite e-book and reading a book. Beside you can solve your condition; you can add your knowledge by the reserve entitled *The Book of Barely Imagined Beings: A 21st Century Bestiary*. Try to make the book *The Book of Barely Imagined Beings: A 21st Century Bestiary* as your buddy. It means that it can to become your friend when you experience alone and beside associated with course make you smarter than ever before. Yeah, it is very fortunate for you. The book makes you much more confidence because you can know everything by the book. So , let's make new experience and also knowledge with this book.

Carol Ray:

This *The Book of Barely Imagined Beings: A 21st Century Bestiary* book is just not ordinary book, you have after that it the world is in your hands. The benefit you receive by reading this book is usually information inside this book incredible fresh, you will get data which is getting deeper you read a lot of information you will get. This kind of *The Book of Barely Imagined Beings: A 21st Century Bestiary* without we understand teach the one who looking at it become critical in imagining and analyzing. Don't end up being worry *The Book of Barely Imagined Beings: A 21st Century Bestiary* can bring whenever you are and not make your carrier space or bookshelves' become full because you can have it inside your lovely laptop even cell phone. This *The Book of Barely Imagined Beings: A 21st Century Bestiary* having great arrangement in word as well as layout, so you will not truly feel uninterested in reading.

Lucille Grant:

Your reading 6th sense will not betray anyone, why because this *The Book of Barely Imagined Beings: A 21st Century Bestiary* guide written by well-known writer who knows well how to make book which can be understand by anyone who also read the book. Written throughout good manner for you, still dripping wet every ideas and composing skill only for eliminate your personal hunger then you still skepticism *The Book of Barely Imagined Beings: A 21st Century Bestiary* as good book not only by the cover but also through the content. This is one publication that can break don't determine book by its deal with, so do you still needing yet another sixth sense to pick this!? Oh come on your looking at sixth sense already said so why you have to listening to one more sixth sense.

Doris Cobb:

Reading a guide make you to get more knowledge from that. You can take knowledge and information coming from a book. Book is composed or printed or descriptive from each source that will filled update of news. In this particular modern era like right now, many ways to get information are available for you. From media social just like newspaper, magazines, science book, encyclopedia, reference book, book and comic. You can add your knowledge by that book. Ready to spend your spare time to open your book? Or just looking for the The Book of Barely Imagined Beings: A 21st Century Bestiary when you necessary it?

Download and Read Online The Book of Barely Imagined Beings: A 21st Century Bestiary By Caspar Henderson #4HU5LXVTS9R

Read The Book of Barely Imagined Beings: A 21st Century Bestiary By Caspar Henderson for online ebook

The Book of Barely Imagined Beings: A 21st Century Bestiary By Caspar Henderson Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read The Book of Barely Imagined Beings: A 21st Century Bestiary By Caspar Henderson books to read online.

Online The Book of Barely Imagined Beings: A 21st Century Bestiary By Caspar Henderson ebook PDF download

The Book of Barely Imagined Beings: A 21st Century Bestiary By Caspar Henderson Doc

The Book of Barely Imagined Beings: A 21st Century Bestiary By Caspar Henderson Mobipocket

The Book of Barely Imagined Beings: A 21st Century Bestiary By Caspar Henderson EPub