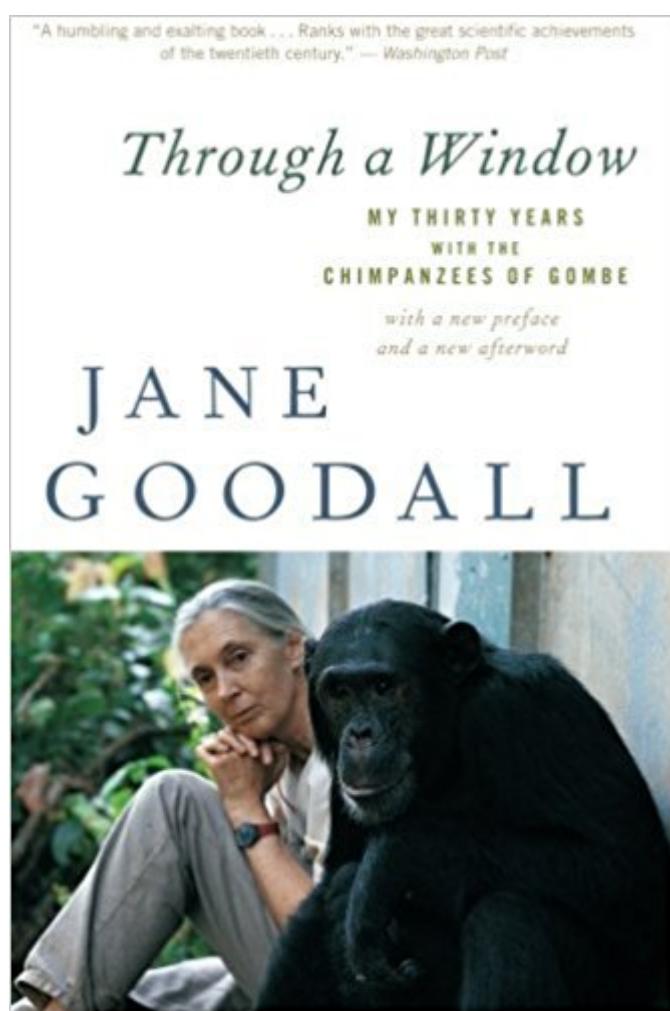


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Through A Window: My Thirty Years With The Chimpanzees Of Gombe



Synopsis

Through a Window is the dramatic saga of thirty years in the life of an intimately intertwined community—“one that reads like a novel, but is one of the most important scientific works ever published. The community is Gombe, on the shores of Lake Tanganyika, where the principal residents are chimpanzees and one extraordinary woman who is their student, protector, and historian. In her classic *In the Shadow of Man*, Jane Goodall wrote of her first ten years at Gombe. In *Through a Window* she brings the story up to the present, painting a more complete and vivid portrait of our closest relatives. We watch young Figan’s relentless rise to power and old Mike’s crushing defeat. We learn how one mother rears her children to succeed and another dooms hers to failure. We witness horrifying murders, touching moments of affection, joyous births, and wrenching deaths. In short, we see every emotion known to humans stripped to its essence. In the mirror of chimpanzee life, we see ourselves reflected.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Her first 10 years at Gombe (Tanzania) on the eastern shore of Lake Tanganyika produced the classic *In the Shadow of Man*. A fitting successor to that work, Goodall’s newest continues the saga of the chimpanzee families with an engrossing account of animal behavior. She examines the mother-child relationship, noting that young males must sever the ties in order to learn male responsibilities (patrolling, repelling intruders, searching for food). There are profiles of special individuals: Goblin, who was determined to rise to the top and stay there; Jomeo, without social

ambition; Gigi, a sterile female; Melissa, mother of successful offspring. Other stories of the chimpanzees include a brutal war between troops; a gruesome affair of cannibalism; incidents of injury, death and grief. The reader gets promptly involved with the characters--they have distinct personalities. In the final chapters, Goodall turns to the plight of wild chimpanzees today (loss of habitat) and the appalling living conditions of those in captivity (including laboratory animals). An important book for students of behavior. Photos. Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

YA-- The detailed observations of the life, habits, and behavior of chimpanzees in the wild continues in this interesting account. The conversational storytelling style is readable for both science students and non-science-oriented teens. Readers meet the assertive but caring Gigi; the aggressive Goblin; and the cannibalistic Passion. Chapters are organized around either a theme or a particular chimp who displays a special character trait. The last two chapters and two appendixes are special pleas for conservation and wildlife management to prevent the extinction of chimpanzees in the wild and for care of the chimps used in laboratories.-Claudia Moore, W. T. Woodson High School, Fairfax, VA
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Quite a reversal from the original "In the Shadow of Man"! The first book showed chimps to have the best of primate social structures. Chimps choose their leaders as the wisest, calmest, fairest of the group. The natural born leader that others turn to with trust in crisis or danger. Unlike Baboons and Humans, who follow the strongest and most forceful. I had such respect for Chimps and felt like humans had missed the boat somewhere in time. Years later, I started hearing the horror stories of violent attacks on humans by captive chimps raised from babies. What in the world??!! Was it the lack of a proper Chimp upbringing that humans just can't provide? What had we done to make these animals so vicious? And these attacks were not the straight forward kill attack seen by other animals - quick and clean. Instead, the attack was more of a dismantling: eyes gouged out, fingers bitten off, nose and ears ripped off, teeth and jaws torn out! Even humans, in their worst moments usually weren't this bad. So, why were Chimpanzees? Turns out this is NOT some type of aberrant behavior! It just was not observed or reported for the first 10 years or so of Goodall's field work. Jane Goodall always broke the rules used for wildlife study: don't interact with the animals, do nothing to influence natural behavior, don't personalize the individuals under study, and don't get involved: rescue, medical care, etc. The purpose of the rules is to keep observations accurate

and unaltered by human presence. Early on, Jane fed the chimps, which may have prevented/delayed migration patterns. In this book, "Through a Window..." she observes very close up. Close enough that she, at times, becomes the brunt of a chimp's frustration with troop politics. This is not only an unnecessary danger, but also very bad research technique!! She even notes that she has become the lowest ranking member of the troop! I've never seen anyone in the scientific community call her out on her behavior, which I find surprising. At times, I wondered which was more interesting, observing the chimps or the human researcher and her rationalizations. Remote cameras are now available and can run 24/7. And transmit, so chimps can be watched live from miles away! What a great way to study behavior! No humans around at all! But, Jane seems too attached to "her" chimps to let go and use more updated techniques. She certainly has the popularity and prestige to be able to afford a more expensive setup. I have always admired wildlife researchers, especially the women! I am sad to learn that Goodall has slide down that slippery slope! Her observations and data are suspect. Some could claim she has done a disservice to both wildlife research and chimps. So many chimps have been poached from the wild. How many due to Goodall's first positive reports of chimp behavior? How many people have been maimed or killed trying to keep chimps as pets? Would chimps have become so endangered if Goodall had not made them so attractive in the first place? Definitely a cautionary tale, at the least.

Jane Goodall paints a family portrait of the chimpanzees she got to observe for thirty years in the wild. Most of it is not pretty but, then again, it's like reading about human history: there's the good, the bad, and the ugly. And it's no coincidence, since chimpanzees are our closest animal relatives. Goodall's contribution to understanding this species is undeniable, as are her bold statements fifty-odd years ago regarding the emotional and humane position in which she regarded her subject matters. And it's plain enough to see that in this retelling, where she calls every chimpanzee by a human-given name. Goodall bookends her story well, starting off with the reactions of the scientific community towards her in the beginning of her career and ending with a conclusive summary of the degrees of difference between humans and chimpanzees, as well as the horrors that some of these animals face in the name of scientific research. It was fascinating getting to know various communities of chimpanzees in their natural habitat and understanding that Mother Nature is brutal without any added help from us.

Jane Goodall is a great writer and she really gives you a feel for what it was like to have been her. You want to know what happens to her chimps. I good read for any animal lover.

I read a lot of books in a lot of different categories. I enjoy books that move me and make me think about them long after I finish reading and this one did just that. I know a book is great when I start seeking further information on-line like I did with this book. The stories of these incredible chimps are fascinating and will keep you reading long past your bedtime. I am an animal lover and have always been interested in chimps and their behavior. I was aware of some of the behaviors, but I definitely learned a lot from this book. The book follows several generations of chimps and really gives an in depth account of their lives. I especially enjoyed reading about the mother chimps and their babies. Some of the methods the mother chimps use could be used as great advice on how to raise any child. They were so loving and patient with their children. The bonds between the family members are so heartwarming and the bonds between the mothers and their children are incredible. All of them have such different personalities. I also loved the stories of the different males in the various groups. I would have liked to meet old Greybeard and have him reach out for my hand. There are also heartbreakingly stories that I will never forget. I never cry reading books, EVER, but the description of Melissa's death got to the very heart of me and it was so vividly written that I felt every last moment of her life and I shed a few tears. Flo's story almost got me as well. Her son's grief over her death could tear down anybody. Flo was great I found her to be my favorite of all the chimps. I can only imagine how wonderful it would have been to have been a part of their lives like Jane has been all these years. The only complaint I can make is actually not about the story at all. I wanted photographs! I have the Kindle version and there are no pictures at all. I saw in the description that there were pictures maybe it is only in the print version. It would have added so much to the story if I could have seen pictures of the chimps. *Through a Window: My Thirty Years with the Chimpanzees of Gombe*

This was the first book by Jane Goodall I read. I recently met her and she signed it for me. Though I disagree with some of her statements like when she claims that humans are the only animals capable of purposeful cruelty, especially since this claim came right after a chapter on a group of chimps that committed systematic genocide against another group of chimps. When she leaves her opinions out of it and focuses solely on observations it is a wonderful look into chimpanzee behavior and daily life.

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