



The Book of Dubious Beasts

Jaxy Mono

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St. George murders a fire-swallowing Welsh dragon...

A mermaid goes looking for true love on land...

A blob of shape-changing mucus runs for political office...

These are some of the weird and wonderful tales told by the macaque Jaxy Mono, in this seminal work of “monkey lit”, *The Book of Dubious Beasts*.

Inspired by the animal stories of Rudyard Kipling and Jorge Luis Borges, and beautifully illustrated by renowned artist Dmitry Pousirev, *The Book of Dubious Beasts* is an unforgettable trip to the zoo of the human imagination.

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ABOUT THIS BOOK

This book is true.

Every word.

Especially the lies.

Look along the edge of a table – that is the first dimension, breadth. Then look along the other edge of the table – that is the second dimension, depth. Then look down at the table’s leg – that is the third dimension, height. Add up those three dimensions and you have space.

Now think at right angles to the first three dimensions, and you have the fourth dimension, time. Add those four dimensions together and you have what cynics call “reality”, or “everything”.

But any reputable theoretical astrophysicist will tell you that our universe has more than four dimensions. Some of the eggheads calculate that it has ten; others are convinced that it has twenty-two. It’s no wonder that the Einsteins can’t tie their own shoelaces and their hair grows perpendicular to their craniums!

So think at right angles to “reality”, and you will discover the fifth dimension, imagination. And, living in this dimension, you will find many beasts that you probably thought did not exist – creatures like dragons and mermaids and unicorns – animals created not by God or by Mother Nature or by Charles Darwin, but by our own fears and fantasies.

Of course, you may look at the strange and imaginary animals in this book and rub your eyes and mutter in disbelief, “but these beasts, they can’t be! Either the monkey with the typewriter got stoned, or I’m hallucinating! This is absurd, the fifth dimension doesn’t exist.”

But of course the fifth dimension exists, even if only in our heads; for with our minds we can make up whole worlds and universes of alternative realities. And do, every night when we fall asleep.

So, welcome to the zoo of the human imagination! Roll up, drop a penny in the turnstile, and come gawp at

the strange and improbable beasts caged in this book. Like us, their makers, they are creatures that science can't explain.

Only, please DON'T FEED THE CRITTERS! Many of these beasts can spit fire, or spout acid, or breathe plague, or turn you into stone; and most of the others would happily scrunch up your bones and slurp your brains out of your skull if you get too close. And watch out that the creatures don't escape, for where imagination intersects with reality, absolutely anything can happen.

A macaque with an iPad can even write a book!

The Book of Dubious Beasts Details

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Author : Jaxy Mono

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Genre :

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From Reader Review The Book of Dubious Beasts for online ebook

Kate Berry says

I enjoyed reading this book, all about various mythical beasts. In particular the story of the dragon was my favourite, as it has animals taking on the roles of humans with them dressed with briefcases and hats. Once I started reading this book I couldn't put it down. It was a enjoyable quick read.

Clare Scanlan says

Some unforgettable characters and great writing. Short story fables and legends.

Tim Mckinstry says

Firstly, I usually struggle with short stories of this kind. I feel like I just get to know the characters then the story ends and a new one begins. This book started that way but the more I read the more I enjoyed it.

the Mermaid story was my favourite, nearly missed my stop at the bus stop while engrossed in it. The stories fall into that old folklore fairytale type rhythm of storytelling with an underlying message.

I'm not quite sure what the deal is with the tail-less barbary ape author Jaxy Mono lol and the font! I'm not a fan of handwritten style fonts for books, but you don't notice it before long.

A bit different and worth a read!

Jeanette says

I was pleased to have won this book in a recent Goodreads First Reads giveaway.

I have never been fond of short stories but now and again, I do find some that does hold my attention. This was one such book and also very different to my preferred genres. It's the first time that I have read any books by this author and hope to read more in due course.

JUDITH DICKINSON says

This book is so deliciously different it is difficult to do it justice in simple layman's terms. Yes, it is written by a monkey, one Jaxy Mono, an undisputed master of the monkey-lit genre. Where this book differs from the rest is that the human race has been put well and truly in its rightful place. Without wishing to give too much away, we are not actually the centre of the universe.

Jaxy takes a few familiar gems of fact and fiction and builds new tales around them. The legendary creatures are so believable, their characters so beautifully portrayed, the reader could almost imagine they are human, but only for a little while! They try so hard to do what they feel is right but, as is often the case in real life,

things do not always quite work out. Imagine the famous Welsh dragon, that fire-breathing symbol of the nation's power, putting out flames in a great metropolis, think maybe London.

Each story is so different to its contemporaries, the characters so varied, that the reader is constantly gripped. As each unfolds you can imagine the modern equivalents, be they politicians, industrial giants v the workers, refugees fleeing to a place where they will never be found. This is a many faceted piece of literary genius. Jaxy obviously has very keen imaginative powers.

When I received this from Goodreads I was not sure what to expect, but I look forward to reading more of his writings.

Maureen says

This is a Goodreads Giveaway. Have only just started reading but I am loving it. I can't really describe it except imagine a fantasy "just So story"! I thoroughly enjoyed reading it - it made my tube journey delightful.

SALLY WHITE says

Thank you Goodreads for sending me this book. I have not read any of Jaxy Mono's other books. This is a collection of short stories (10 in all), each one based on imaginary animals that seem to come together in the last chapter. You really have to use your own imagination to enjoy this book. The illustrations are really good. We never seem to know who Jaxy Mono is (I love his paw print at the front of the book). My suggestion is that you read the book yourself.

Serena Jayne says

These little stories were so well written. I love the authors writing style. An entertaining and poetic little book.

I received this for free through goodreads giveaways.

Patricia says

I received this book from a GoodReads giveaway. It was an interesting read. I enjoyed reading the tales of the different "beasts" throughout the book.

Lynn says

Just couldn't get into this

William Deakin says

Aesop's Fables meets Animal Farm. An interesting and bizarre collection of short stories

Alice says

I won this book via a Good reads giveaway.

I don't normally pick short stories but they're often a really satisfying read, especially on a lunch break or when you have a few minutes in the evening. But I just couldn't get in to these stories. All the tales are about various animals, real or mythical, with some moralish spin on them. However, it was often hard to identify with them and so difficult to really engage with the story. There's a lot of different ideas and styles going on here that I think made the collection feel disjointed as well. Not for my taste but I'm sure there are fans of the bizzare and macabre? out there who'd love them.

I think perhaps fans of Lovecraft might enjoy these bizzare stories.
