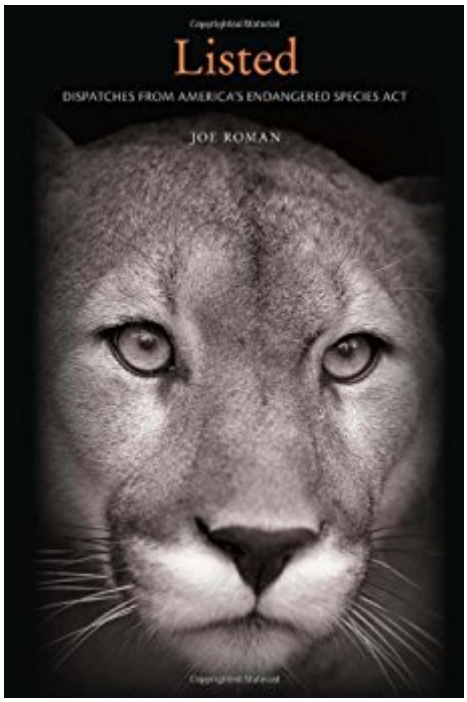
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Synopsis

A lot has changed since the 1970s, when the tiny snail darter went extinct on the Little Tennessee River. Joe Roman helps us understand why we should all be happy about the sweeping law that made these changes possible. Listed is an engaging tale of endangered species in the wild and the people working to save them.

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Customer Reviews

This swift-moving history of the Endangered Species Act culminates with prescriptions for enhancing environmental law, and suggestions for infusing ecological economics and other disciplines into wildlife conservation. Roman also implies often and well that many conservation biologists are consistently practicing neither conservation biology nor ethics (307.) More a series of cogent essays re: the importance of ESA, portraits of its champions and political opponents, and brilliant species-specific commentaries on the ways in which protection of the less-storied species, helped ensure the restoration or growth of ecosystems, Roman adds character to his material with personal comments and recollections which are well-hewn, literary and deeply felt.While I thought

the narrative meandered for 20 or 30 pages in its discussion of the deer tick, Roman’s challenge to worn hypotheses about the etiology of Lyme disease, I was transfixed by every word. I will recommend this work to dozens of colleagues in wildlife rehab and biology -- and even more to voters, and intelligent lay readers.As one who questions my state’s mandate for a wolf hunt (ongoing at this writing) soon after the Feds delisted the gray wolf in Minnesota, Roman stresses that, while ESA was crafted to ensure the SURVIVAL of threatened species, its ultimate purpose is to support, with legal durability, the restoration and support of regional ecosystems to self-sustaining levels.It is consistent with the values of ESA to study particular habitats and species-specific memes, to characterize areas of distribution as, eg. "wolf country," domains in which the wolf dominates for reasons which benefit our shared ecosystems.Roman’s closing remarks are thought-provoking, too. They range from biodiversity trusts and regulated diversity in human landscapes, to firm legislation in species "management." Some of the most formidable champions and opponents of such issues are attorneys; however some law needs to be immutable. Roman knows this, and is unafraid to stress it. It is for this reason, he quietly celebrates the emergence of The Center for Biologcal Diversity.Please read this stirring work, infused with little-known facts about the ecological wars we faced then and now,and sealed with suggestions which merit academic, congressional, scientific and public review. I will also mention that Harvard University Press has completed a stunning book design for LISTED, one which supports what will surely become a standard text in species ecology, one which inspires human coexistence with the numberless species that make life worth living.Five stars.

The title of this review sumerizes the four stars I give it and it’s great on background detail....BUT, I found it’s sollutions offered for preventing extinction and it’s critique of the law, as written and "functioning" and suggestion for improving it either disappointing and unimaginative or completely lacking...While it gives great insight into the pollitically basturdizing process through which even laws with th best of intentions are strained, I really expected the author to at least try proposing ammendments that might better pollish the enablement process...expectation unfullfilled...And the "what to do" list was disappointingly incomplete and non-inclusive, being primarily focused on the governmental and academeic and zoological refuge/zoo-exclusive repopulation aproaches, and totally ignoring how to envolve the interested public, lay-hobbyist and private/captive breeders who could take up the professional understaffing and funding shortfalls and fluctuations caused by political ignorance, greed, special-interest and expedient short-sightedness.This book IS good, as far as it went...it just didn’t live up to all I’d hoped to see it address in terms of innovatively

citizen-involving solutions...

If didn't want us to write at least 20 words, I'd say those two about sum it up.I should say that I generally enjoy this genera of book, but this is far and away one of the best I've read, and how often does one feel inclined to wax poetic about a non-fiction book?I'm not sure what I was expecting, but I actually did not have high expectations for the book before I started. Somehow I was imagining each chapter to be the tale of a different animal, and I wondered how interesting could a chapter on mussels be? But while many different animals (including mussels) were discussed, it was in a much different context than this is an important mussel, it lives here, looks like this, does this... The book begins with an overview of the history of the endagered species act and then includes several chapters that focus on different aspects of the importance of biodiversity (examples storm surge protection, health, medicine etc).The book is never preachy nor does try to make you miserable or scare you silly. It is intellegent and you come away feeling you learned something without being lectured at. And while the author is clearly in favor of conservation, he is open about showing multiple views - there is something to learn here whether you are pro-conservation or wary of environmentalists. He is willing to challenge both sides, for example when researching biodiversity in medicine, the discovery that most medicines with natural origins are from fungus/bacteria's rather than plants or animals. It is one of the few environmentally oriented books that seems to express a middle view - the endangered species act has gotten some things right, and some things wrong, and they might not be what you expected them to be. My only criticism, and it is relatively small, is that it sometimes jumps around (especially in the beginning).The writing is often poignant, and there were stories that both made we wince and made me feel hopeful. Ultimately I think it is a tale of hope, and an honest path to help get there. I wish there was more writing of this calibar on environmental issues. It is a book that will linger with you long after you've finished with it.

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