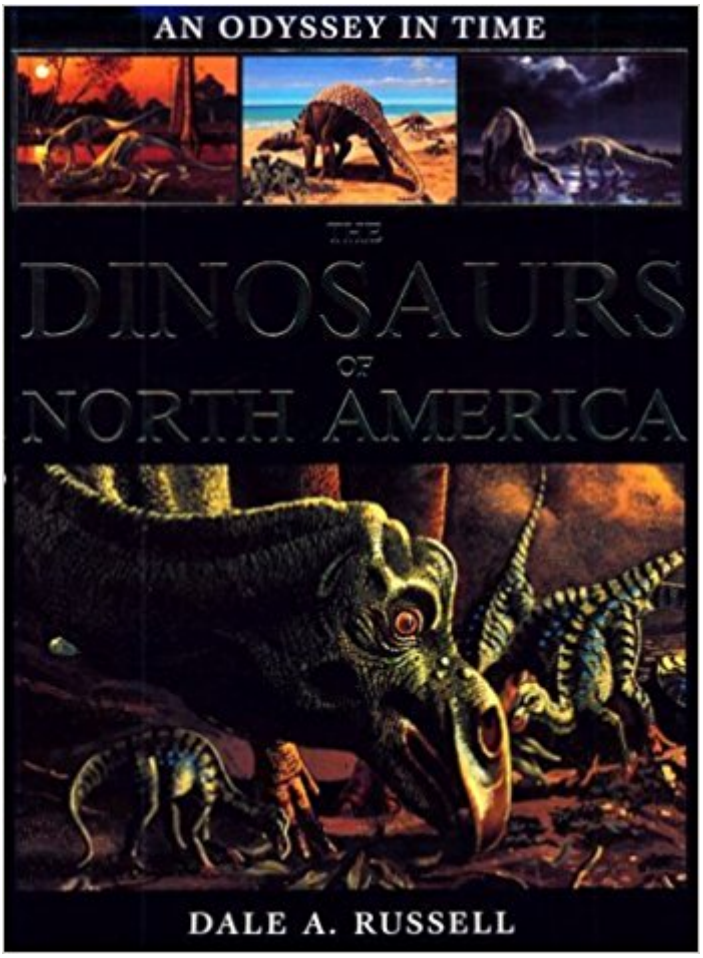
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An Odyssey In Time: The Dinosaurs Of North America



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Synopsis

First published in 1989 and easily the best book on dinosaurs yet available, Russell combines scholarship with beautiful colour illustrations in a study of dinosaur species in the ecological and physical environments in which they evolved and thrived. The book is the best of our current knowledge. 98 colour illustrations.

Book Information

Paperback: 237 pages

Publisher: University of Toronto Press, Scholarly Publishing Division (March 23, 1992)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0802077188

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Product Dimensions: 6 x 1 x 9 inches

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Average Customer Review: 3.5 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

Unlike comprehensive catalogs such as The Macmillan Illustrated Encyclopedia of Dinosaurs (LJ 2/15/89), this is a semi-technical review of the ecology and social dynamics of selected dinosaurs, especially as represented in North American fossil sites. Illustrations include photographs of these sites and paintings of dinosaurs. Paleontologist Russell’s thrilling word-pictures of ancient scenes such as forests of tilted trees are the strength of this book. He supports the cometary-impact theory of dinosaur extinction, concluding that dinosaurs might still exist had this event not occurred. Others interpret geological evidence differently, but everyone can agree on the diversity and appeal of dinosaurs as depicted in this book. For subject and larger general collections.- Beth Clewis, J. Sargeant Reynolds Community Coll. Lib., Richmond, Va.Copyright 1989 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Dale A. Russell is Curator of Fossil Vertebrates and Dinosaurs at the National Museum of Natural Sciences, Ottawa.

I am always disappointed by ’disappointed’ reviewers who may not be the right reader to review a certain title. A reviewer on February 1, 2014 complained that this 1989 book is misleading because it didn’t show more of Eleanor Kish’s art. There was no promise here (or in the advertisement/press release which I have by the way) that this book was ever intended as a collection of her art. The same reviewer feels cheated that the artwork is repeated on different pages but this is UNTRUE. There are 15-18 paintings spread over two pages then "detail" closeups of dinosaurs that are shown on subsequent pages. In this way, the book is like a coffee table art book and the paintings were all previously unpublished. The 1970s paintings the reviewer expected were already published in earlier books from Russell/Kish. Reiterating what the first reviewer said, I would add that Russell’s writing is exquisite and eloquent, rare in books of this type (and I have hundreds). It combines a lifetime of geological and paleontological knowledge into a evocative vision of the Mesozoic. The photos of badlands etc. are necessary to the narrative illustrating what the excavation areas look like in modern times. The photos of swamps and forests serve to fire our imagination in reminding us how the areas once looked.They do not make books like this good anymore!

At first, the book promises to be an interesting reading material. I was hoping there would be more pictures of dinosaurs and other prehistoric creatures. I love Eleanor Kist’s artwork and I was expecting this to be a showcase of her celebrated paintings.I was just utterly disappointed. There were a few pictures of dinosaurs here and there, most were pictures of rock formations and charts. For those whose love to read with less visuals, this is a great book. But I’m not one of those readers. I especially despise the fact that the pictures were duplicated just to show a section of the same pictures up close!! Is that supposed to make me believe there are more visuals int this book than it actually has. I think not.So for those expecting to see a lot of images of dinosaurs and such, look for another book that may be suitable for your taste. I ended up donating this one to the public library.

There isn’t too much to say, except that this is a great book. The artistic depictions are by turns evocative and poignant (Who can look at the pair of emaciated Apatosaurs without wincing?), and the text is well-written, occasionally poetic, even. However, I can’t quite recommend it for beginners; the book’s general focus is actually more on paleoecology and geology than dinosaurs proper, which may make it slow-going for neophytes. Nevertheless, for people who consider themselves to be at the intermediate level and up, I think it’s a great choice.

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