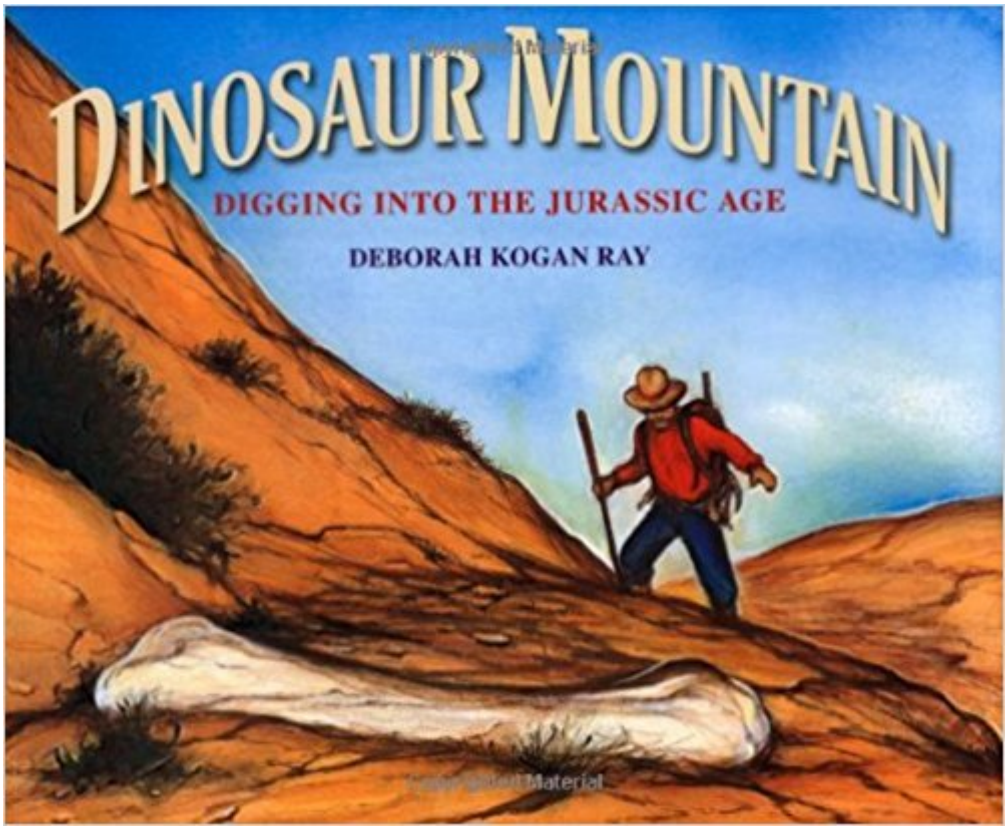
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Dinosaur Mountain: Digging Into The Jurassic Age



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Synopsis

Earl Douglass was a teenager when he first heard about the Bone WarsÃ¢â ¬â ¢the frenzied race between paleontologists to unearth and classify dinosaur fossilsÃ¢â ¬â ¢and he remained fascinated with these prehistoric giants for the rest of his life. As a geologist and botanist working at the Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Douglass had a hunch that the vast untouched rock strata in northeastern Utah just may have been a haven for Jurassic fossil beds. In 1908, he set out by mule team to the Uinta Basin to dig and discover. Find me "something big," Andrew Carnegie instructed.Little did Carnegie know exactly how well Douglass would heed those words. Sixteen years and 350 tons of fossils later, Earl Douglass emerged as one of the most prolific and successful dinosaur hunters of his time.Using entries directly from Douglass's diary along with her own evocative storytelling and artwork, acclaimed author and illustrator Deborah Kogan Ray paints the life of this adventurous bone hunter in memorable detail.Dinosaur Mountain is a 2011 Bank Street - Best Children's Book of the Year and a 2011 NSTA Outstanding Science Trade Book.

Book Information

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Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 and up

Customer Reviews

Starred Review. Grade 3Ã¢â ¬â œ6Ã¢â ¬â •Using the same tawny palette as in Down the Colorado (Farrar, 2007), Ray has painted soft-edged backdrops for her lucid exposition of the life

work of Earl Douglass, fossil-finder extraordinaire. Benefitting from the Cope/Marsh "Bone Wars" and the deep pockets of philanthropist Andrew Carnegie, Douglass embarked on a1909 expedition to the Uinta Basin (Utah) to find Carnegie's demand for "something big." What he found was BIGÃ¢â ¬â •a bone bed that ultimately became Dinosaur National Monument. The readable text is bracketed by large illustrations and smaller diagrams, charts, maps, and, most importantly, direct quotes from Douglass's field journals. Added for readers' edification is a cast of characters of 10 Jurassic dinosaurs found at Dinosaur Mountain, a large map of the monument (which spreads across the Utah/Colorado border), an extensive author's note, a brief bio of Douglass, and an even briefer one of Carnegie. With its sand-colored pages, the warmth of the palette, and the brown script of the journal notes, this is a vibrant window into the burgeoning world of American paleontology a century ago. A rich find.Ã¢â ¬â •Patricia Manning, formerly at Eastchester Public Library, NY (c) Copyright 2010. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

When 165,000 people flocked to see the first exhibited dinosaur, in 1868, it commenced the Ã¢â ¬Å“Bone WarsÃ¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •a race by rival paleontologists to turn up and identify the most spectacular of extinct giants. Archrivals Ã¢â ¬Å“stooped to underhanded methods, including spying, bribery, and even hijacking fossil shipments.Ã¢â ¬Â• But when Earl Douglass was employed by Andrew Carnegie to find Ã¢â ¬Å“something big,Ã¢â ¬Â• he set out with the best of intentions and found the biggest rewards: a mountain in Utah that would ultimately reveal some of the greatest and grandest dinosaur skeletons anyone had ever seen. Although RayÃ¢â ¬â„¢s expressive art lacks the fine detail to help illustrate complicated excavation techniques, it excels in capturing the grandeur and wonder of key moments, like Douglass stumbling upon a six-foot thigh bone or the uncovering of a massive line of a vertebrae. Excited journal entries from Douglass enliven the informative text, and small sketch bookÃ¢â ¬â œstyle drawings of fossils and tools add a scholarly touch. This will push all-new buttons of the dinosaur lovers in your life. Grades 4-6. --Daniel Kraus

A totally engaging story about one man's lifelong passion for digging up dinosaurs. The reader is treated to a concise history of dinosaur excavation in the western United States. Not only is the story fascinating to read for its own sake, but the reader really comes to see just how young the `dinosaur industry' is! The author's painted illustrations bring the scenes to life. Many informative sidebars elucidate and enhance the story without repeating what is already contained in the text.

This is a great book for a project or report for ages 9 to 12, or for reading before visiting a Museum of Natural History or a family summer car trip to Dinosaur National Monument in Colorado and Utah. Or, just read it as its own captivating story!

Crowds of people were amazed at the dinosaur skeleton they saw at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia. It was 1868 and it was like nothing they had ever seen before. Each individual had to gaze a full three stories high to see the skull of the amazing dinosaur. The curators of the museum had hoped that interest in dinosaurs would be sparked by this exhibit and they certainly weren't disappointed. Anxious to find additional dinosaur skeletons to exhibit curators and bone hunters alike sparked what became known as the "Bone Wars."By 1877 the Bone Wars were becoming heated when site after site in the West uncovered "huge dinosaur bones." "Bone hunters" (paleontologists) were anxious to not only garner large numbers of bones, but also fame. Edward Drinker Cope and Othniel Charles Marsh had the distinction of being two of the best bone hunters. Their relationship was not a partnership, but rather a rivalry in which they "are said to have stooped to underhanded methods, including spying, bribery, and even hijacking fossil shipments bound back east for each other's museums."It was a "dinosaur craze" that even the likes of Andrew Carnegie could not resist. In this book you will read about Earl Douglass, a quiet, but persistent fossil hunter and expert, how he methodically searched for bones, you'll get to see drawings of ancient fossilized creatures, you'll read about Dr. William Holland and "Dad Goodrich" who joined Douglass, their amazing discoveries, you'll get glimpses of Earl's diary, and much more!This is an amazing tale of discovery that will rivet the young, curious dinosaur lover. Many books, that keep the dino lover's attention, focus on the dinosaurs themselves, but few seem to discuss the actual discovery of their fossilized remains. I enjoyed the conversational style this book took and learned quite a bit about the "Bone Wars," something I was unfamiliar with. The art work has a bit of an old West aura about it that sends the reader back in time, once again to experience the thrill of discovery. There are numerous informative sidebars and diagrams that will interest the reader. In the back of the book are drawings of Jurassic dinosaurs discovered, brief paragraphs about them, information about the Dinosaur National Monument, a glossary, a bibliography and additional biographical information on Douglass and Carnegie.

I read the daily reports on the current ecological disaster in the Gulf of Mexico and I think about how it is going to take the Best and the Brightest of this and the next couple of generations to possibly mitigate the catastrophic and interrelated environmental problems that continue to stack up around

and above our planet like a house of cards. Unfortunately, it’s the only house we’ve all got, the only hand we’re being dealt, and we either address these problems in a serious manner pronto or the game is going to be over.We need exceptional science curriculums in our schools and we need to persuade lots of our most talented young people that science is an exciting frontier awaiting them. We also need great books like DINOSAUR MOUNTAIN: DIGGING INTO THE JURASSIC AGE.DINOSAUR MOUNTAIN, the story of Earl Douglass’ discovery, a century ago, of a mother lode of dinosaur bones in eastern Utah, is science and biography writing for children at its finest. You have the excitement of finding seventy-foot long dinosaur skeletons. You have the danger of working with TNT, living in tents in the middle of nowhere, and sometimes working in temperatures of forty degrees below zero. You have great explanations -- with accompanying illustrations -- of how the work of excavating and preserving these fragile bones was actually conducted.And you have a great photo on the back cover of Earl Douglass. I adore this photo. He’s in front of a wall of sandstone marked with grids, with his hand on a bone that’s almost as long as he is tall. You look at this friendly guy with a sparkle in his eye and a hammer in his (other) hand and you can just imagine how cool it would have been to talk with a guy like this -- a rock star of bone hunters -- or how amazing it would be to actually be Earl Douglass. He was a guy who so believed in his work that he was able to persuade the then-President to preserve the rocks into which he was digging so that none of these priceless scientific treasures would be lost. (The area in which Douglass made all of his astounding discoveries eventually became a tiny corner of what is now the 210,000 acre Dinosaur National Monument.)Then Douglass’ benefactor, Andrew Carnegie, died and Douglass continued on with his work without pay for the next five years. How alive he must have felt to work that hard with that sort of passion.Author and illustrator Deborah Kogan Ray does an exceptional job of setting the stage for Douglass’ discoveries by telling the story of the decades-earlier rivalry -- that came to be known as the Bone Wars -- between paleontologists Edward Drinker Cope and Othniel Charles Marsh. We read how Douglass learned from the mistakes of the earlier bone hunters by being more methodical in his excavation and preservation procedures so as to insure that the right bones would be connected to each other when they were duplicated for assembly and viewing in natural history museums.All of this storytelling is accomplished by the author/illustrator within a text that is sufficiently spare as to leave a full page of every spread free for unobstructed illustration. There are sidebars that include entries from Douglass’ journals. End matter includes a two-page spread on "The Jurassic Dinosaurs of the Dinosaur National Monument Quarry," a two-page spread on Dinosaur National Monument, further biographical information on Douglass and Carnegie, a glossary, and a bibliography.Just think of hiking in that area in late spring and imagining

some of these giant bones lying just below the surface under your feet? Or in a wall over your shoulder? It is going to take a lot of imagination to solve the messes we've gotten ourselves into, and this is exactly the sort of book that will feed young imaginations and inspire young scientists.

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