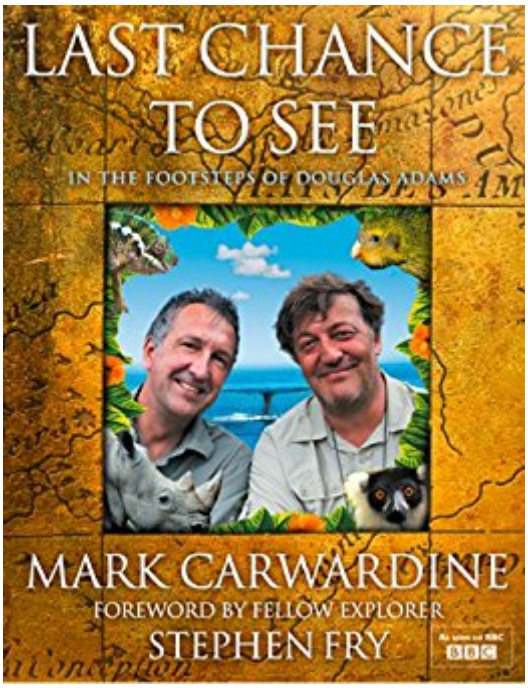
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Last Chance To See



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Synopsis

Join zoologist Mark Carwardine and BritainÃ¢â ¬â„¢s best-loved wit and raconteur, Stephen Fry, as they follow in their great friend Douglas AdamsÃ¢â ¬â„¢ footsteps, in search of some of the rarest and most threatened animals on Earth.Twenty years ago, zoologist Mark Carwardine teamed up with the late Douglas Adams (author of The Hitch Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy) and together they embarked on a groundbreaking expedition, travelling the globe in search of some of the world's most endangered animals. Now Mark has teamed up with one of Douglas's closest friends Ã¢â ¬â œ comic genius Stephen Fry Ã¢â ¬â œ to see how all those animals have been faring in the years since. In Last Chance to See, and the accompanying major BBC television series, we follow the unlikely duo on six separate journeys which take them from the steamy jungles of the to the ice-covered mountain tops of New Zealand and from the edge of a war zone in Central Africa to a sub-tropical paradise in the North Pacific. Along the way, they search for some of the weirdest, most remarkable and most troubled creatures on earth: a large, black, sleepy animal easily mistaken for an unusually listless mudbank, a parrot with a song like an unreleased collection of Pink Floyd studio outtakes, a rhino with square lips, a dragon with deadly saliva, an animal roughly the length of a Boeing 737 and the creature most likely to emerge from the cargo doors of a spaceship.A unique insight into the disappearing world around us, this is their hilarious, entertaining, informative and thought-provoking story.

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Customer Reviews

I love this book (I also love the first book from 1990). I stumbled upon this book as a Douglas Adams fan and a book store gift card that I re-found when I was moving. I am now deciding which Mark Carwardine book I should read next. I am a biologist and I am surprised that I haven't heard of these books before. I think this book is amazingly well done and eye-opening for anyone, not just biologists. This does parallel a lot of my beliefs as well as teach a lot of new things to me. I particularly liked how Mark explains the difference between poisonous and venomous, this is something I also teach my students because when they are used incorrectly it bothers me more than I should admit to. Thanks Mark! If my career ends up being half as adventurous as yours reads than I am doing it right.

I don't know why this book is so hard to find. On the other hand I don't know why the original (by Adams and Carwardine) was so generally ignored either. This is an excellent companion to the video which updates the dire circumstances (and in a few cases, successes - too few) described in the original. The only regret is that Douglas Adams is no longer around to see the outcomes and continue his writing.

Stephen Fry is walking in Douglas Adams' shoes, keeping Adams' project going. The intention is to see a species that is disappearing forever from the earth, and write about the experience in an intelligent and humanistic manner, and Fry does the exceptional job that one would expect from him.

An absolutely beautiful book. It makes me fall in I love with the programme and its creators all over again.

Don't buy this one; get and read the original!

Over a period of two months I read the original ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Last Chance to SeeÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• book, read the ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Last Chance to SeeÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• follow-up book, and then watched the ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Last Chance to SeeÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• DVD.Much of what I said in my previous review of ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Last Chance to See,ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• by Douglas Adams and Mark Carwardine, applies to this review of the second ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Last Chance to See,ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• by Mark Carwardine writing solo. However, I think few would argue that Douglas Adams made the original book much more humorous than the follow-up. ItÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s not that Mark Carwardine canÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t be funny on his own, but Douglas Adams is in a class by himself when it comes to environmental-travel writing.I do have one item to nitpick about. In this follow-up book, Carwardine brought up the obligatory story of the candiru, which is a skinny one-inch-long catfish. According to legend, if you urinate underwater, a candiru can follow your urine stream, swim up your urethra, and lodge itself there by spreading its hooked gill spines. The only way to remove the fish is through surgery. It sounds gruesome, but when I wrote my book, ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Cool Creatures, Hot PlanetÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• (two years before Carwardine wrote his book), there were no documented cases of candiru-plugged urethras to be found.Therefore, I believe Carwardine bought into the candiru legend without properly investigating itÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â •something a zoologist like him should never do. That being said, people make mistakes, and the candiru is a small one.All in all, this was a delightful book on the depressing subject of extinctions. And kudos to Carwardine for making the new version of ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Last Chance to SeeÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• significantly different from the originalÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â •and excellent in its own way.My recommendation is to read the books in order and then watch the DVD. YouÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ll enjoy them all!Marty Essen, Author of:Ã Â Endangered Edens: Exploring the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Costa Rica, the Everglades, and Puerto RicoandÃ Â Cool Creatures, Hot Planet: Exploring the Seven Continents

I have not read it...just looked at the pics so far.

This book is written by zoologist Mark Carwardine and is the book companion to the BBC series of the same name wherein the author and English actor, TV presenter, author and all-round funny guy Stephen Fry travel about the world looking at/for various endangered animals. The book follows their travels chronologically and is effectively broken up into chapters commensurate with the TV series. You don’t need a degree to understand it and there are lots of amusing anecdotes about the various travails of the journey.The work is beautifully illustrated and does lay bare some fairly

unpleasant statistics about the plight of even large animals such as the Northern White Rhino and the Yangtze River Dolphin. At the back is a useful index and the contact details of some conservation groups you might consider helping. The foreword by Stephen Fry is also a nice way to start off the book.This would be a great gift for anyone with a love of animals or who enjoyed the BBC series. I found it a little hard to get into and really only 'clicked' with the writing style towards the end of the book. But it will certainly have you checking your bank balance to see if you can't afford to get to one of these exotic locations for yourself and have what may well be your very own 'last chance to see'.

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