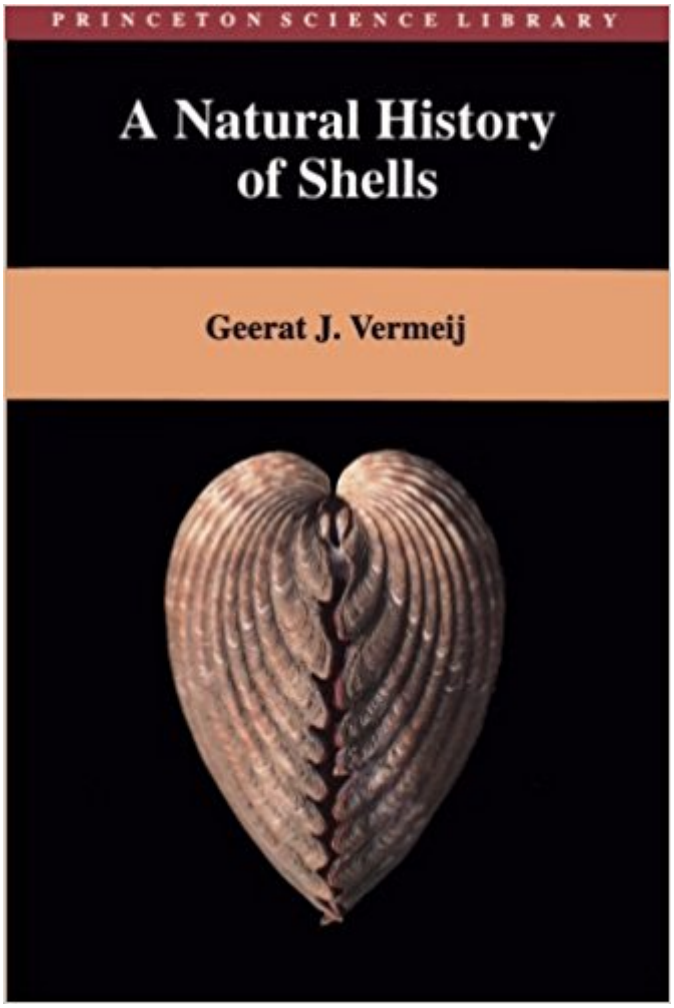
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A Natural History Of Shells (Princeton Science Library)



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Synopsis

Geerat Vermeij wrote this "celebration of shells" to share his enthusiasm for those supremely elegant creations and what they can teach us about nature. Most popular books on shells emphasize the identification of species, but Vermeij uses shells as a way to explore major ideas in biology. How are shells built? How do they work? How did they evolve? The author lucidly and charmingly demonstrates how shells give us insights into the lives of animals in our own day as well as in the distant geological past.

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One of Choice’s Outstanding Academic Titles for 1994Winner of the 1993 Award for Excellence, New Jersey Education Association (NJEA)"Vermeij provides an elegantly written and beautifully illustrated account of shell construction, function, and evolution, while showing how these molluscan houses give us insights into ecology and the history of life. [It is a] book that will be treasured by scientists and lay readers alike."--Nature "Vermeij provides an elegantly written and beautifully illustrated account of shell construction, function, and evolution, while showing how these molluscan houses give us insights into ecology and the history of life. [It is a] book that will be treasured by scientists and lay readers alike."--Nature"A Natural History of Shells is a fascinating biological view of shells as the products of living organisms....We come to appreciate and understand the diverse wonders of economy, function, and construction that can be seen in shells."--Douglas Palmer, New

Scientist"This is a pleasingly different book. Most other popular books on shells help one to identify them. In this book Vermeij uses shells to help understand the ecology, evolution, and history of snails, clams, and other Mollusca, the phylum of animals that construct 'shells.' . . . This book uses both contemporary and fossil shells to explore many ideas and processes in general biology. . . . I have been seeking this book for years."--The Quarterly Review of Biology"I was swept away by the world of molluscs and found myself fascinated and informed. . . . By the end of the book I was convinced that anyone with a passion for their subject would enjoy and be educated by Vermeij's obvious passion for his."--Biologist

Geerat Vermeij wrote this 'celebration of shells' to share his enthusiasm for those supremely elegant creations and what they can teach us about nature. Most popular books on shells emphasize the identification of species, but Vermeij uses shells as a way to explore major ideas in biology. How are shells built? How do they work? How did they evolve? The author lucidly and charmingly demonstrates how shells give us insights into the lives of animals in our own day as well as in the distant geological past.

This book represents a splendid 'celebration of shells' written by a man with an ardent passion to shell-bearing animals of the Ocean. It is so unique that I recommend it even to professional malacologists (though the book is intended to much wider auditorium and it is not a scientific monograph). "A natural history of shells" is a concise and full of interesting considerations introductiob to study of molluscan shells as one of the most attractive examples of Nature's beauty. The author deals with many aspects of shells ranging from the geometry of their structure to ecology of molluscs (soft-bodies animals) that live within them. So, it is a true "natural history" in the exact meaning of this term as it was understood in the epoch of Linnaeus, Buffon, Cuvier, Darwin and other great naturalists of the past.

A really good review on shell functional morphology. Easy to understand (if you have a degree on biology or the kind) and very well written. A must-read for anyone entering this world from a scientific point of view.

Very good and very special. It is not a identification book like most so it gives background of the shells that all of the other books contain pictures of. Very informative.

Vermeij is a man who, although blind, sees the pattern and meaning behind objects in the natural world with insight that is truly transformative. Although this book is about shells, and only shells, it relates them to evolution and geography in a way that takes the read way beyond its nomitive subject matter to something that should widen the mind of any curious reader.

Very good book, It came highly recommended and was special in so far as it was not a species identification book. The Author, the Perspective, and the Scope of the book are all extraordinary.

I never knew there was so much to the history of shells until I read this book. I love how the author ties in evolutionist theories throughout the book and how much shells and fossils can teach us.

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