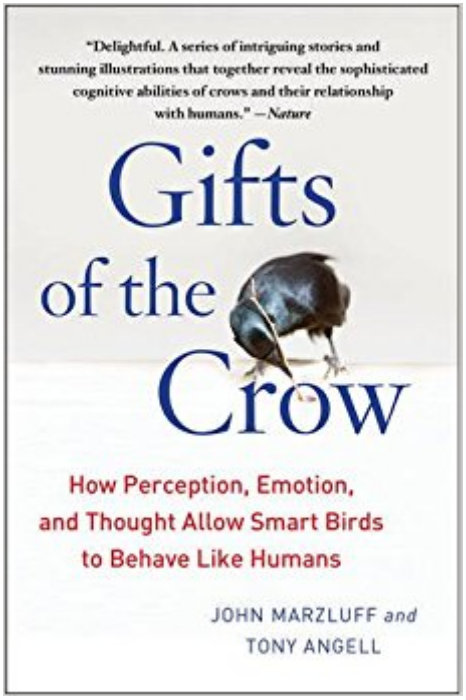
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Gifts Of The Crow: How Perception, Emotion, And Thought Allow Smart Birds To Behave Like Humans



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Synopsis

Stan CorenÃ¢â ¬â„¢s groundbreaking The Intelligence of Dogs meets Bernd HeinrichÃ¢â ¬â„¢s classic Mind of the Raven in this astonishing, beautifully illustrated look at the uncanny intelligence and emotions of crows.Playful, social, and passionate, crows have brains that are huge for their body size, which allows them to think, plan, and reconsider their actions. They also exhibit an avian kind of eloquence, mate for life, and associate with relatives and neighbors for years. And to people who care for them and feed them, they often give oddly touching gifts in return. The ongoing connection between humans and crowsÃ¢â ¬â •a cultural coevolutionÃ¢â ¬â •has shaped both species for millions of years. Scientist John Marzluff teams up with artist-naturalist Tony Angell to tell amazing stories of these brilliant birds. With MarzluffÃ¢â ¬â„¢s extraordinary original research on the intelligence and startling abilities of corvidsÃ¢â ¬â •crows, ravens, and jaysÃ¢â ¬â •AngellÃ¢â ¬â„¢s gorgeous line drawings, and a lively joint narrative, the authors offer an in-depth look at these complex creatures and the traits and behaviors we share, including language, delinquency, frolic, passion, wrath, risk taking, and awareness. Crows gather around their dead, warn of impending doom, recognize people, commit murder of other crows, lure animals to their death, swill coffee and drink beer, design and use toolsÃ¢â ¬â •including cars as nutcrackersÃ¢â ¬â •and windsurf and sled to play. With its abundance of funny, awe-inspiring, and poignant stories, Gifts of the Crow portrays creatures who are nothing short of amazing.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Ã¢â ¬Å“Researchers writing about comparative human and nonhuman cognition always make brief, obligatory reference to the underlying neurological and hormonal systems, but Marzluff and Angell actually provide us with the details. In lucid, logical, and articulate prose, they carefully explain all the interrelated mechanisms involved in the fascinating behavior patterns of their corvid subjects and how these mechanisms relate to those of humans. Their book is indeed a gift, not only to those of us eager to learn about corvid behavior but also but also to those who wish to understand the bases for these actions.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Irene M. Pepperberg, author of Alex & Me: How a Scientist and a Parrot Uncovered a Hidden World of Animal Intelligence--and Formed a Deep Bond in the Process)Ã¢â ¬Å“John Marzluff and Tony Angell's amazing, true stories of crows who rage, grieve, give gifts, work together, and even design and use tools would be enough to make this book a great read. But these maverick scientists go a step further, and actually show how these birds' big brains, though different from our own, achieve many of the same feats. Gifts of the Crow is a gift to all of us who have argued for years that humans don't possess the only minds in the universe. This is one of the most exciting books I've read in a long time.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Sy Montgomery, author of Birdology)"In this important work, youÃ¢â ¬â„¢ll find stunning examples of crow emotionality and intelligence -- a triumphant vindication for those who have known all along that animals are capable of much more than theyÃ¢â ¬â„¢re generally given credit for. . Crows dream as part of their learning process, for instance, and profile other individualsÃ¢â ¬â„¢ behavior and act accordingly. In many ways, their intelligence is equal to that of the great apes. Fascinating." (Stacey O'Brien, author of Wesley the Owl)"Full of clear and detailed accounts of research...remarkable." (NYTimes)"AngellÃ¢â ¬â„¢s illustrations of birds are exquisitely detailed... the book will instill in many readers a sense of wonder and curiosity at what these birds can do. An insightful look at some of our surprisingly capable feathered friends." (Kirkus)"Amazing" (Seattle Times)Ã¢â ¬Å“DelightfulÃ¢â ¬Â¦ a series of intriguing stories and stunning illustrations that together reveal the sophisticated cognitive abilities of crows and their relationÃ Â- ship with humans." (Nature)"With its abundance of funny, awe-inspiring, and poignant stories, Gifts of the Crow portrays creatures who are nothing short of amazing. A testament to years of painstaking research and careful observation, this fully illustrated, riveting work is a thrilling look at one of nature's most wondrous creatures." (Guardian.co.uk)"A great read, this book is a tribute to the little-known and underappreciated minds of the birds of the amazing corvid family. Serious and at times hilarious, it pulled me in with its telling anecdotes and scientific context. Most importantly, it acknowledges and explores the many complex similarities between crows' mental traits and our own." (Bernd Heinrich, author of Mind of the Raven)Ã¢â ¬Å“Gifts of the Crow is a compelling book.

Filled with wonderful stories of regular peopleÃ¢â ¬â„¢s interactions with ravens, crows, and jays, it also cites engrossing scientific studies, reports on the field work of biologists, and offers detailed explanations of how the brain of a corvid actually works. I was fascinated.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Suzie Gilbert, author of Flyaway: How A Wild Bird Rehabber Sought Adventure and Found Her Wings)Ã¢â ¬Å“A remarkable look at just how smart the common crow and raven areÃ¢â ¬Â¦ Highly recommended.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Library Journal)"Throughout much of human history crows have been our constant companions. In their exciting new book, Marzluff and Angell, show us how crows brains work, while providing the evidence that these cerebral birds have a lot more in common with us than we ever imagined. And Angell's illustrations alone make the book worth the price." (Paul R. Ehrlich, co-author of The Birder's Handbook)

John Marzluff, Ph.D., is Professor of Wildlife Science at the University of Washington. The author of four books and over one hundred scientific papers on various aspects of bird behavior, he is the recipient of the A. Brazier Howell, Board of Directors, and H.R. Painton awards from the Cooper Ornithological Society.Tony Angell has authored and/or illustrated a dozen award-winning books related to natural history.

I got this book for the Kindle, and wanted to read it myself. However, my spouse, who was not so much a bird person, took a liking to it, and loaded it to his Kindle first.For the past two weeks as he's read this book, I get daily reports of how interesting the book is, how amazing these birds are, and what great anecdotes the author includes. The crows really do bring "gifts" to people they like. And they remember people as well.The book goes into a bit of the brain structure and in depth about genetically as well. When I read it, I may skip over the more technical and scientific aspects of the work. But I am happy to report that my observations about bird behavior, their habits and likes and fears, dovetails with what this author presents based on science and experiments, not just a layman's observations. I'm very pleased to report that my spouse has dropped the expression "bird brain" to indicate someone without cognitive powers. Now in our household there are two bird lovers.When I have a chance to read it, I'll update it from my non-scientific point of view. But, for all the good conversation it has already stimulated, it is worth reading.

i learned so much from this book,not just about crows but about all birds.if you don't like crows, you'll at least end up respecting them after reading this. and you'll be far more informed about the natural world.on the other hand, if you don't like going outside and don't care for nature and prefer

casinos and malls and TV, then you’re hopeless and you should just jump off a cliff.a bit dense in its analysis/explanation of the neurobiology of bird/crow brains, but you can follow it, i think. i have an unfair advantage inasmuch as i have a solid medical/anatomy/physiology background.

The stories. research and questions raised in this book have stayed with me long after I finished it a year ago. I’ve already bought two more copies to give to my younger family members who are curious about these intelligent birds. This research has changed the way I listen to and look at crows. Now I take note of their social networking, their language and their covert interest in what I’m doing. I’ve grown more curious and interested as a result of this book. The chapters on brain and anatomy are beyond my High School understanding of biology but I was able to get through them because of other books on health and the human brain I’ve read as an adult. I’m so glad to find researchers who can relate to me as a member of the general population. Also, I’m thrilled that someone is dedicated so much effort and thought into bridging the human-animal gap. Thank you Dr. Marzluff and colleagues!

If you are into birds, this is a super great read! It has a lot of science to it, but is well written and easy to comprehend, even if you are not "science-savvy". I have told people many of the things I have learned in this book because you will find that crows are sooo fascinating! I truly liked and appreciate this book for giving me a new outlook on a common bird.

You bet. Crows and their corvid brothers and sisters are truly amazing animals. I loved this book and was fascinated by their long history of association with humans. Mr. Angell’s illustrations are beautiful and instructive. Dr. Marzluff’s research was extensive and fascinating, but his writing style a bit dry for me. This is a great resource of information about our very intelligent and social friends.

crows are great and the most you know the most you love them

The neuroscience is more fanciful than factual and the the borders between same are not properly signaled. Worse, the connection to the behavioral work, which again is more anecdotal than analytic, it interestingly but not properly acknowledged as entirely speculative. This is the sort of work that give neuroscience a reputation for being ahead of itself. It draws an audience the old fashioned way, with a story more inspired than informed by science.

Very science like. Teaches you more than you thought can imagine about our friends the crow.

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