



Wildlife Book Club

Smiling Bears by Else Poulsen

Tuesday August 5, 2014



Raina Krasner, WCV:
Hi everyone!

Comment From tinksmom/MO
Ready for Book Club!

Comment From Lydia, PA ♥ ♪•x•? ♥
Tap Tap Tap...Bears are Smiling somewhere...



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:
Hello! I'm ready!



Chapin Hardy, WCV:
Evening!

Comment From BarbG
all set for book club

Comment From Peggy from Pungo (VA Beach)
Ready to talk about "Smiling Bears"

Comment From tinksmom/MO
Hello Raina!

Comment From Becky in SoCal
I'm ready.....

Comment From Doris
Me too 33mama!

Comment From Doris
Hi Raina!

Comment From Shannon

Hi Raina!

Comment From Sweetpea

Hi Raina

Comment From Shirley - Greensboro, NC

Here with nibbles and beverage waiting for book club to start.

Comment From 33mama

Hi Raina and Amanda!

Comment From Doris

Hi Aa

Comment From tinksmom/MO

Hello Amanda!

Comment From Dave in Missouri

Hey Raina and Amanda!

Comment From Jersey Shore Amy

Ready or not, here we come!

Comment From Heidi in NH

Hi Raina, and everyone. I'm here. Ordered the book but not arrived yet so I will lurk and learn.



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

I'm ready!

Comment From MAK, PA

I'm here as well

Comment From Pat, NJ

Here too!!!!

Comment From 33mama

Hi Chapin!

Comment From Regina, IL

Hi Amanda, Raina & Chapin & EN/CN. Loved Smiling Bears. I know some of "our" bears smiled a lot.

Comment From Becky in SoCal

Hale, hale, the gang's all here!

Comment From otterlady

hello everyone

Comment From Dave in Missouri

Hi Chapin!

Comment From Lydia, PA ♥ ♪•x•? ♥

Khutzy, Skoki, Lousie, Snowball, Misty, Miggy, Barle and Triton all here!

Comment From Kathryn in Mi

I'm ready and waiting.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Ok, it looks like everyone is ready!



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

Let's get started!

Comment From Lydia, PA ♥ ♪•x•? ♥

Okay, lets go



Raina Krasner, WCV:

So welcome to the first meeting of the Wildlife Book Club!



Raina Krasner, WCV:

I am happy that we have so many people interested in discussing this month's book ...



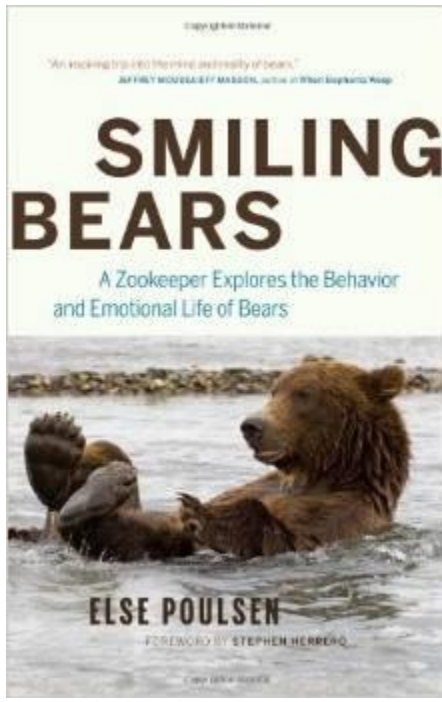
Raina Krasner, WCV:

Smiling Bears: A Zookeeper Explores the Behavior and Emotional Lives of Bears
By Else Poulsen



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Hold on ...



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Ok there we go!



Raina Krasner, WCV:

I'm having some technical difficulties. :)



Raina Krasner, WCV:

So what did everyone think of this book?

Comment From MAK, PA

Else's experiences with bears were amazing and eye opening!

Comment From Lydia, PA ♥ ٩•٠•٠? ♥

I love this book. Now I want to read Barle's story!

Comment From Shirley - Greensboro, NC

I loved the book and really want to read her next book all about Barle.

Comment From CarolinaGirl

Loved the book. I could have kept on reading about her experiences!

Comment From Special K

So thankful to be here. I loved the book. Thank you, Raina, for having this tonight.

Comment From Special K

It was much more interesting than I first thought it would be. Absolutely loved it. Full of information and yet funny too. :)

Comment From Doris

Loved this book!

Comment From Becky in SoCal

Loved the book and when "Bears Smiled", I did also.

Comment From otterlady

It was great but sometimes a real tear jerker

Comment From Sweetpea

What's not to like. I would like to meet Else.

**Amanda Nicholson, WCV:**

I thought it was great! This was my second read -- my mom got me this book last year for my birthday!

Comment From Mary E in NC

This was a wonderful choice, Raina - especially given our fascination with bears!

**Raina Krasner, WCV:**

I'm so glad everyone seems to have enjoyed it!

**Chapin Hardy, WCV:**

I thoroughly enjoyed hearing how animal husbandry has changed over the years and "seeing" how the bears benefited and behaviors changed.

**Raina Krasner, WCV:**

Amanda recommended this book after her mother gave it as a gift. I think it was an excellent choice as our first read for the book club.

Comment From Regina, IL

Is Congo joining us? Did Jamie get a copy yet? I'm sure she'd love it.

**Raina Krasner, WCV:**

Good question ... I'm not sure if Congo will be here. But Jaime Sajecki (bear project lead in VA) said she has not read it yet.

**Raina Krasner, WCV:**

But I bet she will now, especially after all the high praise from our book club members.

Comment From Peggy from Pungo (VA Beach)

I enjoyed reading it very much. Would like to read more by her.

**Raina Krasner, WCV:**

So, in case you're joining us but haven't read the book yet ... here is a quick description.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Smiling Bears is a journey through one zookeepers years of working with bears. She shines a spotlight on a handful of bears (of different species, ages, and temperaments) to exemplify the complexities of a bears life ... mainly in captivity at zoos.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

And to be honest, I couldn't fully imagine a smiling bear, so I did a little research ...



Raina Krasner, WCV:

In case you had a hard time picturing a smiling bear ...



Comment From Teresa

Wow! (on the smiling bears)

Comment From Shannon

Love the happy faces

Comment From Special K

Love the pics. They really do smile.

Comment From Doris

Cool!!

Comment From BarbG ♥ ٩•٠•? ♥

great pictures

Comment From Peggy from Pungo (VA Beach)

Wow, nice smiles.

Comment From Jersey Shore Amy

Made me think of other animals' "smiling" behaviors - not just bears!

Comment From Lydia, PA ♥ ٩•٠•? ♥

I could picture smiling bears as I read this book. Else is amazing!

Comment From Shirley - Greensboro, NC

Bear smiles look a lot like dog smiles. :)

Comment From Carol in Oregon

Sweet!

Comment From Sweetpea

Awww. aren't they precious!

Comment From Lydia, PA ♥ ٩•٠•? ♥

2 questions: "Who are you?" and "What can I do for you?" Love that approach and the time she takes to observe and answer these questions

Comment From 33mama

Else is so observant. She was able to develop a relationship with a bear by watching and meeting the individual bear's needs.

**Raina Krasner, WCV:**

That's very true ... Poulsen talks a lot about building relationships with each of the bears she worked with.

**Raina Krasner, WCV:**

So, it's interesting to see how everyone is commenting on Poulsen's discussion about zoos, captive wildlife, and how zoos have changed over the years.

Comment From Teresa

Her experiences certainly focused on the ever changing philosophy regarding zoo habitat and animal enrichment. It made me wonder if other zoo keepers had similar experiences.

Comment From BarbG ♥ ٩•٠•? ♥

loved the book--as someone who grew up with the cement enclosures, it was wonderful to read and see all the changes

Comment From Shirley - Greensboro, NC

I'm glad bears are being treated better as they are rescued from concrete pit type "zoos."



Raina Krasner, WCV:

The general atmosphere of zoos is definitely evolving.

Comment From MAK, PA

She challenged us to fight and support for better laws in some countries and how we can improve in how we handle bears.

Comment From Kathy in NM ♥

As a life-long animal lover, I knew that I'd probably enjoy this book, and I did. The one thing that remains with me, above all else, is confirmation of what I've learned through personal experience; animals are smarter and more aware than humans, as a whole, want to admit. I've had numerous personal experiences of having animals trying to teach me and it is humbling. Henry Beston's quote of Mankind not judging animals as underlings, but other nations living along side us, here on earth, really rings true in this book.

Comment From Special K

I think everyone who does anything with bears should read it. Not that all bears react the same, but it's really informational.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Oh yes, Else early on talks about how zookeepers who treated non-primates in zoos as sentient creatures were sort of laughed at.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

She explains that it is now widely accepted that non-human animals are treated sentient - that is, thinking, feeling creatures.

Comment From Guest

I bet she put lots of hours in at her job. Sounds like she would spend a very long time with a new bear and at the same time, she had to take care of other animals at the zoo.

Comment From Sweetpea

I loved Else's perseverance. She never gave up on having the relationship with the bear.

Comment From Kathryn in Mi

People don't realize what complicated critters bears can be.

Comment From Lydia, PA ♥ ٩•٠•? ♥

I thought her description of some of the bear behavior was fascinating once that relationship was developed. Bears could communicate they didn't want straw for a nest material, or demonstrate with their paw that something hurt for example, or which body part they wanted hosed off (after the tooth extraction)



Raina Krasner, WCV:

I loved that story! I think she said it was of her most memorable moments, right?

Comment From CarolinaGirl

I have always had a problem with zoo captive animals kept in such confined areas. It was good to read her stories of changes for the better.

Comment From Peggy from Pungo (VA Beach)

I thought it interesting how carefully the keepers planned when they introduced new bears to the resident ones.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Right, the care that the staff took in introducing the bears was remarkable.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

The zookeepers took great care in the process, which shows how much these animal caretakers truly care for their charges.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

It bothers me on Facebook when we talk about sending our non-releasable bears to zoos (like Monty and Finn) -- that some folks write off zoos entirely. There are good zoos and bad zoos, just like there is with anything ... but so many places have evolved (as have many, many animal organizations ... if you're not evolving ... you're probably not keeping up with current studies and such)! I thought it was interesting in the Knoxville Zoo article that was posted earlier today that Amy (one of the keepers) notes that they are not a breeding facility -- and they only take in rescued animals. Thank goodness for that -- otherwise our boys wouldn't have a home!



Raina Krasner, WCV:

That's true! Nothing is black and white (except Panda Bears :)) and zoos are no exception. They serve an important function, and they are constantly evolving to better meet the needs of their animals.

Comment From Shannon

I have never been one to like zoos for I always assumed the animals were mistreated. This book has helped me to change those thoughts.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

It's great when a book can help you to see from a new perspective!

Comment From Doris

Knoxville zoo is a good example of how zoos are changing their enclosures...

Comment From 33mama

I know our zoo here (Riverbanks Zoo and Gardens) offers daily enrichment for the animals.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Book Club – Smiling Bears by Else Poulsen

So important! Else talks so much about enrichment. We kind of take for granted that enrichment wasn't always something zoo animals would get!

Comment From BarbG ♥ ٩٠٩٠? ♥

I think the whole mindset has to change and I do see that happening in many places

Comment From Regina, IL

I think all animals have a personality. After all, humans are animals too.

Comment From Lydia, PA ♥ ٩٠٩٠? ♥

Right Peggy, and another thing I liked was Poulsen's description of bears being independent vs. solitary (Melanka, the spectacled or Andean bear). It makes a lot of sense. She showed us that bears need to learn and respect the social norms (even if they do not need to socialize) with other bears

Comment From 33mama

And it was interesting how she figured out which personalities would work best together.

Comment From Special K

Good point, Amanda. Makes me happy too.

Comment From Mary E in NC

Reminds me of how carefully and thoughtfully WCV treats the bears that are patients!



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Yes, we took great care to introduce news bears to one another. As Else showed in her book, there can be all sorts of reactions!



Raina Krasner, WCV:

I especially loved her discussion of Louise and Khutzy.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Of course, I think I loved this chapter because it reminded me of our surrogates!

Comment From Peggy from Pungo (VA Beach)

That was a sweet story, Raina. Shows how bears can form bonds with other bears.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Yes, so sweet. :) And on pg 128, Else talks about the spectacled bears ... and nursing, even though the adult bear was not lactating.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Which of course reminded me of this video ...

<http://youtu.be/OPKvg90K4aE?list=PLdIHxQrJ4pMAD6qhMBtRDBLF4O1r6EjVY>

Comment From 33mama

Nice that the yearling was bonded enough that she wanted to provide that comfort to the cubs!

Comment From Regina, IL

After I saw this video I thought of that chapter. So sweet. The yearlings did such a good job.

Comment From Special K

It would be interesting to see if bears who have been together for a very long time are separated, if the bears grieve for each other.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Well, she sort of talks about this a little, right? When Khutzy lost her mother and Louise takes her under her wing (or ... paw?).



Raina Krasner, WCV:

And when Khutzy becomes upset at the change in her relationship with Louise. Can you tell I really enjoyed that chapter??

Comment From Lydia, PA ♥ ♡•••? ♥

LOL that nursing video. We saw them nursing this Saturday too--close up in the LMI

Comment From Special K

Well, yes, but Khutzy already knew Louise, right?



Raina Krasner, WCV:

That's true. She did have a relationship with her. But it evolved after her mother passed away.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Which is, of course, a huge theme in this book. The complex emotions and behaviors of bears.



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

I thought it was interesting that Khutzy kept her cub-like behavior for so long.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Yes! She was a perpetual child.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Um. Cub.

Comment From Kali - TX

else poulsen's entire philosophy is much like that of WCV's - "We cannot conserve what we do not understand or even know about."



Raina Krasner, WCV:

I loved this quote early in the book ...

“The self-aggrandizing and widespread assumption that we humans have the full complement of all of the emotions possible to all animals on Earth—basically, that all the marbles belong to us—is not only unscientific but also childish.”



Raina Krasner, WCV:

I love that she called humans out for being "childish" and "unscientific" in our thoughts about non-human animals.

Comment From 33mama

Delusions of grandeur--just like thinking the earth is the center of the universe.

Comment From Becky in SoCal

I loved that quote, too, Raina. So true. I believe animals are way ahead of humans.

Comment From Special K

Yes, I guess you're right. Guess I forgot about that. It makes me angry when people say animals don't have feelings because they show us over and over again. Also, I was really thinking about if the bears who have developed a relationship with each other for a long time, if they were released in the wild, would they stay together (even though they don't usually travel together like that). Of course that would never happen. I'm talking years of being together and then being released. Wouldn't happen.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

I think Lydia mentioned Else's discussion about bears being solitary versus independent.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

I think her explanation of the difference was basically that "solitary" makes it sound like they lack social skills. But bear do NOT lack social skills. In the wild, many species just typically prefer to be on their own ...



Raina Krasner, WCV:

And she demonstrates the complex social interactions of these bears over, and over again.

Comment From Lydia, PA ♥ ʕ•ɹ•ʔ ♥

I love the story of Miggy, who came into the zoo after being habituated to humans. Reminded me of our WCV bears. Miggy really needed to learn from a mother. Poulsen did so much to meet Miggy's special needs. Awesome how Else subbed for the mother. The cracking nuts story made me laugh. And thankfully Else did not have to eat mealworms! I am so glad the cubs at WCV had surrogate yearlings this year. Made me appreciate how important this is.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Miggy was an awesome case study! I'm so glad Else included her.

Comment From Lydia, PA ♥ ʕ•ɹ•ʔ ♥

Right she asserted that they were independent or could be, vs. solitary--that they have or need to learn social skills and the social order

Comment From 33mama

Loved the cracking nuts story!



Raina Krasner, WCV:

And the "cracking nuts" story demonstrated a few things ...



Raina Krasner, WCV:

One, Miggy clearly saw Else as a role model, and she was seeking out that authority figure to tell her how to act like a bear ...



Raina Krasner, WCV:

And two, it showed us that bears learn in several different ways!



Raina Krasner, WCV:

So with the nuts, she watched Else (learning through observation), she had some instinct (she knew that Else was doing it wrong by not cracking it in her mouth, and I believe Miggy bit Else to tell her she was doing it wrong), AND ...



Raina Krasner, WCV:

SMELL. Miggy smelled Else's breath to figure out what she should be eating!



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Which I thought was SO cool.

Comment From Special K

You are right....she bit her hard to tell her, "this is how to do it"!

Comment From Special K

Monkey see, monkey do.....or in bear language, bear see, bear do. :)

Comment From 33mama

That's the hard wired part--Miggy already knew it was important to watch and learn.

Comment From Kali - TX

miggy showing else how to crack nuts was so funny! but also demonstrated that miggy still had real bear instincts



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

Smelling is believing if you're a bear!



Raina Krasner, WCV:

And which bear was it that she used the spoon for target training?



Raina Krasner, WCV:

It was a bear with limited vision, but I can't remember his name ...



Chapin Hardy, WCV:



Raina Krasner, WCV:

There we go!



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

I thought of that yesterday when we released those bears -- humans rely so much on sight (seeing is believing) but bears ... bears rely on smell!



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

Which is why I have no doubt they waited until those humans were out of the way, and just smelled each other right in that same spot ... and went to do their bear things!



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Oh, bears doing bear things.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Which was another good point that Else made.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Captive bears don't cease being bears just because they are interacting with humans, each other, or their environments differently. They are still bears, but they have a different skill set. They adapt to their setting.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

And really, Else demonstrates that bears are highly adaptable.

Comment From MAK, PA

Elsie had to learn to think like a bear.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

So often she did! Very true.

Comment From Lydia, PA ♥ ٩•٠•? ♥

Yes, and I had to chuckle when Miggy kept needing to smell Else's breath to see what she ate



Raina Krasner, WCV:

That was one of my favorite stories in the book.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Although, I admit it is kind of hard to imagine letting a 100 lb bear that close to my face ...

Comment From 33mama

Trial and error got her through but she was really intuitive and thought things and situations through.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Yea, a lot of trial and error.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

They were learning as they went, Else and the zookeepers. They were forging ahead to make zoos and captive animal care a whole new game!

Comment From Lydia, PA ♥ ๕๐๕๐? ♥

And that reminds me of another point Poulsen made that I just loved! And I think a lot of it was exemplified by Barle "Bears are true individuals who respond to their environment based on their own genetics, environment, and unique past experiences. They know they are bears, and have bear expectations, whether human raised or mother raised". I was amazed when Barle had her own cub and taught the cub to hunt seals!

Comment From Special K

And a big thanks we owe Else and the zoo for allowing her to do it. :)



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

Barle seems awesome.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

There are some great photos of the bears in the book here: <http://www.elsepoulsen.com/#!meet-the-bears>

Comment From Kathryn in Mi

Learned a lot. Would have been nice if there were pictures.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Amanda, there are pictures of a lot of the bears on her website, right?



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

Yep, check out that link!



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

So cute to see the bears after reading about them.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

Also -- Detroit Zoo has a Flickr account; <https://www.flickr.com/phot...>



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

Barle is in their album! So cute.

Comment From Kathy in NM ♥

Ohhh... Thanks for the picture link, Amanda!!



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Barle!

Comment From Lydia, PA ♥ ٠•٠•? ♥

Oh! Thanks for that link! Meet the bears in Smiling Bears!

Comment From Carol in Oregon

Great link, Amanda.

Comment From Lydia, PA ♥ ٠•٠•? ♥

I ordered Barle's story from AmazonSmile. Can't wait to read it

Comment From Sweetpea

I didn't realize that bears had those emotions, but Elise showed that time after time in how they communicated to her. Bears are mis-understood.

Comment From BarbG ♥ ٠•٠•? ♥

I loved how Else described all the facial expressions of the bears



Raina Krasner, WCV:

I think Else helped me to appreciate bears more, absolutely.

Comment From Lydia, PA ♥ ٠•٠•? ♥

I love that picture of Miggy and Else!

Comment From Peggy from Pungo (VA Beach)

Great link. Beautiful pictures of the bears.

Comment From BarbG ♥ ٠•٠•? ♥

I have seen Barle and Talini at the Detroit Zoo-didn't really know the story until I read the book



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Ah! You saw them? SO cool.

Comment From Peggy from Pungo (VA Beach)

I'm going to have to read that one too, Lydia.It was wonderful to read about Barle's transition.

Comment From Lydia, PA ♥ ٠•٠•? ♥

Awesome Barb G!

Comment From 33mama

Me too!



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Wow. I'm a little jealous!

Comment From 33mama

Green with envy!

Comment From Becky in SoCal

This was such a "feel good" book, one that I think I will be reading over and over again.

**Chapin Hardy, WCV:**

Barle really looks like she is smiling in that last picture.

Comment From Dave in Missouri

Cool bear pictures!

**Raina Krasner, WCV:**

Ok ... so what other themes were important in this book?

Comment From Kali - TX

did anyone else cry about "snowball"? after all of her problems, and else poulsen finally figuring out how to help her, only to find out that she had developed such severe arthritis that she had to be euthanized.

**Amanda Nicholson, WCV:**

The story of Snowball was fascinating and heart-breaking. Reading how Snowball could not physically stop herself from pacing -- even to get her most favorite treat ever -- just rips your heart out. And really emphasizes how complex these behaviors can be.

By that same token, I was SO frustrated for Else when she talked about how the media picked up that story and turned it into something ugly, and how everyone had their (uninformed) opinion. So easy to make snap judgement when you don't have a full understanding of the facts ... makes me so sad for Else and her co-workers, since they obviously cared a great deal for Snowball and were trying to do the best for her.

Comment From CarolinaGirl

One of my favorite stories was the one about the pacing Polar Bear....Snowball. This bear ended up on Prozac. Amazing how animals can have the same issues as humans. thank goodness for Else's persistence.

Comment From Carol in Oregon

Had to put the book down I was crying so much re:Snowball.

Comment From BarbG ♥ ٩٠٩٠? ♥

definitely cried over Snowball then thought about how much she contributed to the future of bear care

Comment From MAK, PA

I agree Carolinagirl

Comment From Becky in SoCal

It was tough to read about Snowball. Thanks to all of you at WCV we are "informed". Thank you for what you do.

Comment From tinksmom/MO

Re:Snowball...and the media, sounds familiar doesn't it?



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

Sadly ...



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

And just some reactions on Facebook in general sometimes. Always good to know the facts before you judge!



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Yes, we must remember that the majority of people working with these animals really care and are trying their best to keep their animals happy.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Or rather, keep them "content".

Comment From Pat, NJ

Makes my blood boil when I read some of the ignorant comments people make in these situations, jumping to conclusions, and always having the "real" answers.

Comment From CarolinaGirl

I am sure WCV knows CN has your back. Have corrected a few people myself!

Comment From Dave in Missouri

The real caring people are here for the long haul!

Comment From MAK, PA

Yes yea Amanda



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Early on, Else says that wild is the standard, and therefore, all zoos are substandard by default. But she emphasizes that the best zoos and keepers are doing their very best to make up for what they are lacking.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Some of the enclosure she describes sound so complex and well-designed.

Comment From 33mama

Lots of really basic zoo keeping standards have changed. Great that they don't take animals out of the wild anymore, but participate in breeding programs instead.

Comment From Kali - TX

but the media attention on snowball had an unexpected effect, on people, too. the story about the woman who approached else and told her own story about OCD, was so touching. bears and humans can both have similar problems.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Good point. Snowballs story had a broad reach.

Comment From Lydia, PA ♥ ʘ•x•ʘ ♥

As Poulsen says -Bears need our help. They are at the top of the food chain. What happens to them affects the rest of the food chain. Bright light is the dedicated organizations who are intelligently taking on bear issues! WCV is one!

Comment From Special K

Wish there were more Else's out there.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

I think there are a lot of Else's out there (I hope).

Comment From tinksmom/MO

The book allows us to have a deeper and clearer appreciation WCV even more for the work you do with bears. (and all the critters of course)I hope that reads like I intended.

Comment From katiesmom

Unfortunately, folks think with their hearts and feelings - they don't know - and don't want to learn the facts

Comment From tinksmom/MO

my niece asked if the book would make her cry if she read it, I said "maybe",that was before I got to Snowball.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Oh boy. And Barle.

Comment From Lydia, PA ♥ ʘ•x•ʘ ♥

I loved how Barle jumped into the straw once she finally ventured out of the crate after being rescued. Bless her! What a story.

Comment From tinksmom/MO

Ah yes, Barle, she had such a horrible beginning didn't she?



Raina Krasner, WCV:

The most difficult part of this entire book (for me) was the moment when Else tells how she put her hand up to Barle in her enclosure, and Barle took that as a signal to perform a trick.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Absolutely heartbreaking.

Comment From Special K

Barle had a horrible beginning but she was soooooo sweet. I can't imagine having such a sweet disposition after being treated so miserably.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

She seemed to come through all that -- the years of horror at the circus -- and seemed to adapt so well to all her new roommates. Like she just ... kept moving forward, despite her past.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

By the way ... does everyone know how to pronounce her name?



Raina Krasner, WCV:

I know it's probably pronounced differently than I think it is ...

Comment From Guest

bear ly

Comment From CarolinaGirl

Bar-ley?

Comment From Dave in Missouri

no?

Comment From Kali - TX

barle? i think it's "ber-la"



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

BEHR'-lah



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

BEAR la

Comment From 33mama

Okay!

Comment From Special K

That was heartbreaking, Raina, but at the same time, I think Barle knew Else was being sweet to her and Barle wanted to do the trick to please her.

Comment From Becky in SoCal

It was heart wrenching, Raina. That made me cry.

Comment From Shannon

I felt the same way Raina. That was the last thing she wanted to do.

Comment From tinksmom/MO

Okay, I called her Barly. :)

Comment From Lydia, PA ♥ ♡•••? ♥

Oh Raian! (You said: The most difficult part of this entire book (for me) was the moment when Else tells how she put her hand up to Barle in her enclosure, and Barle took that as a signal to perform a trick.) That was true for me too! and Else felt so awful! Barle was looking to a tiny shelf to get on when that happened



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Ugh. I know. I can't even think about it.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Which actually connects back to another major theme in this book.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Training!

Comment From 33mama

Else and the bears were training each other!



Raina Krasner, WCV:

I love how she explains how many animals learn (including humans).



Raina Krasner, WCV:

The 1-2-3 step process.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

1. Something good happens, maybe it's a fluke.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

2. Something good happens again ... I'm "seeing a theme here!"



Raina Krasner, WCV:

3. "Let me test my theory".



Raina Krasner, WCV:

And Else references Karen Pryor's book on training "Don't Shoot the Dog!" which is a book we use at the Center (and many animal trainers).

Comment From Kali - TX

(that 1-2-3 also works when you're trying to teach kids "no"...lol)

Comment From Kali - TX

(or dogs)

Comment From Becky in SoCal

Training for some things is very important for zoo animals and their keepers.

Comment From Peggy from Pungo (VA Beach)

Else learned from the bears as much as they learned from her

Comment From Special K

"test my theory".....that was the BEST part. Made me smile.....BIG.

Comment From 33mama

Aha!

Comment From TerryMI

I like the comment she makes, You cannot humanize a bear and you cannot "debearize" a bear.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Absolutely. The training was working with their "bearness" and did not rely on trying to humanize them.

Comment From Kali - TX

i liked that too, terry

Comment From Lydia, PA ♥ ٩•٩•? ♥

Yep like I said before, she made a point of emphasizing that bears know they are bears, and have bear expectations, whether human raised or mother raised!

Comment From 33mama

I don't think we will stop humanizing because it's fun! But at least we know the difference.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Well, but humanizing them and basing their care off of human expectations does the bears no good.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

I thought her mention of "critical anthropomorphism" was interesting -- to incorporate what we know about an animal's life history and natural history into our deductions.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

But -- "it's impossible to fully interpret the behavior of another living thing".



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

i think that's always important to note ... I mean ... I don't know what Raina's doing half the time ...



Raina Krasner, WCV:

You should. You make up 3/4 of my to-do list.

Comment From Mary E in NC

lol, Amanda!

Comment From Dave in Missouri

LoL Amanda!

Comment From Kali - TX

lol!



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

Yes, but how to interpret that behavior ... beats me ...

Comment From Kali - TX

i think in else's case, she learned to think like a bear, instead of expecting bears to think like a human.

Comment From 33mama

Raina, I meant humanizing from afar--putting human words in their mouths, etc. Ex: NX and Lief!

Comment From tinksmom/MO

I liked the way Else describes us as 'biophilic' That is very true of CN I think!



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Ah! yes.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

The need to be surrounded by other living things.

Comment From Lydia, PA ♥ ʕ•̂̂•? ♥

I learned a new term too. And I think it is probably true of all of us here who have become CN: “Biophilia”—innate need to be with the living things around us

Comment From Jakermo♥♥

Oh my gosh! I finally caught up. Loved the book. etc.

Comment From Lydia, PA ♥ ʕ•̂̂•? ♥

Yes it is tinksmom! “Biophilia”—innate need to be with the living things around us

Comment From Jakermo♥♥

Amen, Lydia!

Comment From Mary E in NC

I think more people are recognizing the importance of being close to nature - biophilia - to our well-being!

Comment From Jersey Shore Amy

Made me think about Dr. Rich's new role, and how he will (might) to develop relationships with the bears in Birmingham!



Raina Krasner, WCV:

He said that he was really looking forward to having long-term relationships with his patients again.

Comment From Regina, IL

I had a palm reader tell me I need to be around nature to calm myself. It works!

**Raina Krasner, WCV:**

Speaking of palms ...

Comment From tinksmom/MO

The biting of the paw was interesting to me. Have any of 'our' bears been seen to do that when they were brought in?

**Raina Krasner, WCV:**

I think Amanda and I both had some thoughts on that ...

**Amanda Nicholson, WCV:**

That was a really interesting, yet odd part of the book for me.

**Amanda Nicholson, WCV:**

It was fascinating reading her account with Sissy, the polar bear who bit her paw to show pain after her dental work.

**Chapin Hardy, WCV:**

Interesting she was able to pick up on the bear's behavior and make the connection.

Comment From Lydia, PA ♥ ٩•٠•٠? ♥

The bears in book used the biting of the paw to communicate pain--or so Poulsen interpreted, right?

Comment From Kali - TX

i thought it was interesting that it wasn't just one bear, but several who used that "biting the paw" to show something hurt.

**Amanda Nicholson, WCV:**

Yes, that was amazing -- to make that connection.

Comment From Jersey Shore Amy

I didn't understand if biting the paw to demonstrate pain is innate or was taught to them?

Comment From Kathy in NM ♥

Have you ever seen that behavior?

Comment From CarolinaGirl

I found the paw biting interesting too. Wow. What a way to communicate!

Comment From Special K

Why odd to you?

**Amanda Nicholson, WCV:**

But I wish she would've talked about it more -- because she almost sounded like she would (when she talked about Sissy) -- but then she just kind of referenced it in her other stories, without going into great depth about how she connected that behavior.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

And it seemed to be both physical and emotional pain -- I just wish she would've explained it a lot more.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Right, definitely lacking in further explanation of that behavior. I don't think I've ever witnessed that.

Comment From BarbG ♥ ٧•٩•? ♥

my reaction was-how did she connect that behavior?/



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

I think that maybe the use of anthropomorphism led her to that connection.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

Because at face value, it seems like it sort of makes it sound like bears know this universal sign language. And I'd like to understand more about it.

Comment From 33mama

Amanda, why don't you sent her an email and ask about it?

Comment From Lydia, PA ♥ ٧•٩•? ♥

Well, lets write to Poulsen and ask her!

Comment From CarolinaGirl

I loved her patience. She must have sat for hours just watching, determining exactly what the bear needed.

Comment From 33mama

Else's dedication was amazing!

Comment From Kathy in NM ♥

I bet you'll be watching for that behavior, now - You'll have to share if you ever see it!

Comment From Carol in Oregon

What a dedicated person she was.

Comment From Special K

I thought that too, 33mama. How in the world did she get her other work done?



Raina Krasner, WCV:

I don't know! She put a lot of effort into enrichment.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Book Club – Smiling Bears by Else Poulsen

And it was interesting that different bears reacted differently to different types of enrichment.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Like, some like nesting materials ... some like puzzles and games ... some liked food!



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

Just like humans, we all have different interests.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Absolutely!

Comment From Carol in Oregon

She was SO observant. Misty and the frozen rabbit being one example. She was always looking for ways to make their lives better.

Comment From Special K

I loved the bear (I forget which one) was pulling out the toys from the pool while the young 'un would wait to reap the benefits.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

yes! That was Snowball and Misty.

Comment From 33mama

Just like Junior building a nest of sticks, and Buddy not caring about that.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Perfect example!



Raina Krasner, WCV:

And Buddy loves his box of rocks!

Comment From tinksmom/MO

We saw that with the magnificent 17 and the igloos. (enrichment)

Comment From CarolinaGirl

Just like my cats react differently to the same thing. Right Chapin...just like humans.

Comment From Jakermo♥♥

I think Else showed how important it is to spend time with animals, dogs, cats, bears, birds, etc., that we want to have a better relationship with.

Comment From Dave in Missouri

Anthrowhatism?



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Oh boy.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Anthropomorphism!

Comment From Jersey Shore Amy

I was not only in awe of what I was learning about the bears, but in awe of Else's ability to be so patient and soooooo perceptible in "diagnosing" their behavior and trying different things until they worked.



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

Leads back to the "Who are you?" "What can I do for you?" questions.

Comment From Special K

Lots of enrichment made happy bears too.

Comment From Lydia, PA ♥ ♡•••? ♥

Yes Carolina girl I love her whole approach of who are you? and What can I do for you? And really taking the time, and whatever trial and error it took, to figure that our

Comment From 33mama

The focus was the opposite of what WCV does because Else's bears were never going to be released. She was trying to make their lives happier in captivity.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Right. But the idea of keeping their lives enriched is equivalent.

Comment From Jersey Shore Amy

I cringe now when I think of some zoos that I visited in the 60's and 70's! No "environment", no "enrichment". We are miles ahead now.

Comment From BarbG ♥ ♡•••? ♥

I enjoy email newsletter from my local zoo-had a huge article with pictures about enrichment

Comment From Regina, IL

Was Else a forerunner on enrichment for the animals?



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Oh. Great question! I don't know, but based on her timeline and based on her comments about the zoos she was working in, I'd say she was definitely in on the ground floor of the movement.

Comment From Becky in SoCal

I was in awe of how the bears showed Else what they wanted and needed. If we just watch and listen, I believe all animals will show us.

Comment From TerryMI

The people at WCV put lot of effort into enrichment for their patients and educational animals also. The paper ball you made Buttercup was pretty cool, until the rain destroyed it.

Comment From Susan from NJ

Who in the US is responsible for zoos and the way they treat their animals? Are there state by state regulations?



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

AZA carefully selects the expert Accreditation Commission members who evaluate each zoo and aquarium. These experts are leaders in their fields and have many years of experience and education in zoo and aquarium operations, animal management, and veterinary medicine.



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

The formation of the AZA (Association of Zoos and Aquariums) set the standards for animal care. Today the AZA evaluates the zoo's veterinary program, involvement in conservation and research, education programs, safety policies and procedures, security, physical facilities, guest services, and the quality of the institution's staff.



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

I disagree. We have to evaluate each patient and figure out what works best for them. We provide enrichment for patients as well as our ambassadors.

Comment From Jakermo♥♥

And of course, WCV has quite a few ambassadors that will spend their lives with them. [just no bears]

Comment From Guest

So, we learned a lot about captive bears...what does WCV Outreach and other Care staff take away from this terrific book?



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Well, I think I personally gained a better appreciation of bears in general. I have a better understanding of their complex social lives and behaviors.

Comment From Lydia, PA ♥ ♡•x•? ♥

I agree with you Raina, this book made me appreciate bears more absolutely as well!



Raina Krasner, WCV:

And I think the epilogue was pretty important ...

Comment From Regina, IL

I have to say, I literally cried reading the epilogue. Didn't want to bring it up but I never knew of such horrors. Thank goodness hundreds have been rescued.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

She talks about "bile bears"



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

That was heartbreaking, yet important.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Which is more than a little disturbing.

Comment From VA Kris

I must say that I liked the book..but the End Notes just devastated me...the detail of the the plight of so many bears the world-over was crushing.

Comment From 33mama

The epilogue made me sick...



Raina Krasner, WCV:

it was hard to read ...

Comment From MAK, PA

I agree Regina. that was heart breaking for me too!

Comment From BarbG ♥ ♡•••? ♥

I unfortunately saw a bear in a pit in China last fall-unreal situation

Comment From Doris

Made me cry like a baby...

Comment From tinksmom/MO

That was very disturbing to me, did not know about such a disgusting thing!

Comment From Kathy in NM ♥

I had to force myself to keep reading the epilogue...

Comment From Peggy from Pungo (VA Beach)

The epilogue was hard to read but informative. I did not know about "bear farms"

Comment From Mary E in NC

I wish our government could bring pressure to bear on China to end the bile farms - that and their use of rhino horns are truly horrendous!

Comment From Lydia, PA ♥ ♡•••? ♥

Bear bile farms--ugh I had never heard of them!

Comment From VA Kris

What can we do?



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Well, Else lists a number of organizations that are helping bears.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

And we can always become engaged in that way.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

Yes, she has some great resources for further learning!



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

From earlier in the book, she had another great quote that fits in nicely here too: "We are responsible for doing better when we know better."

Comment From Special K

We all need to be aware of these types of things so we can do something about it. If we turn a blind eye to it, or never know about it, nothing will ever change.]



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Oh, I like that!



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

Good in the context of the book ... but good motto for life too!



Raina Krasner, WCV:

She also says that by teaching empathy for one animal, it often leads to empathy for many animals.

Comment From JoyfulJeff

The bile bear issue makes me think about wild bear poaching cases for bile here in VA over the past few years. People will do horrible things for medical quackery.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

Hello, JJ! :) Yes. Shocking to know that this happens in our own backyard as well. Not just in Asia.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Hi Jeff! Yes, and education can play a role in ending these inappropriate practices.

Comment From Lydia, PA ♥ ♡•••? ♥

Teach the world!



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

Be the change you wish to see.

Comment From Regina, IL

Ok, leaky eyes thinking about it again. I'll make note of those organization before I give my book away.

Comment From Lydia, PA ♥ ♡•••? ♥

JJ is here! Love it Hi JJ!

Comment From Kali - TX

in the past couple of years, a large number of bears - here in the US - have been rescued from "bear pits". roadside, unregulated "zoos".



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

Yes. Another good example that there are good zoos and bad "zoos" -- places that don't even deserve to be called a zoo. :(That's why it's hard to find GOOD placement for black bears (for the non-releasables) -- we don't want our bears to end up at some roadside pit.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Excellent point.

Comment From CarolinaGirl

Yes, JoyfulJeff. We have recently had some arrests for that here in SC.

Comment From VA Kris

WHAT? We have poaching for bear bile in the U.S.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Oh sure. There are all sorts of unsavory things that happen in the name of pseudo science.

Comment From CarolinaGirl

Yes, VA Kris, we do!

Comment From 33mama

We lead such sheltered lives...



Raina Krasner, WCV:

So true.

Comment From Shirley - Greensboro, NC

Oh, this reminds me of my favorite quote: In the end, we ill conserve only what we love; We will love only what we understand; and we will understand only what we are taught. Baba Dioum (Senegal) Thank you for TEACHING us!!

Comment From Lydia, PA ♥ ٩٠٩٠? ♥

Else did point us to the reputable organizations who are taking on bear issues. We should reach out to see how we might be of help



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Absolutely.

Comment From BarbG ♥ ٩٠٩٠? ♥

we need to share our books as a start



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Yes!



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

Conservation is through education.

Comment From JoyfulJeff

Yes, unfortunately, poaching for gallbladders is alive and well. Ten or 15 years ago there was a big bust in Shenandoah National Park. It was prosecuted very heavily and I haven't heard as much about the problem since.

Comment From Peggy from Pungo (VA Beach)

Great list of resources and agencies at the end of the book.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Now that we've focused on some of the more negative parts of the book, what were some of the funniest or happiest?

Comment From Jakermo♥♥

I really like my book. Maybe I'll just tell people how wonderful it is.

Comment From Lydia, PA ♥ ♡•x•? ♥

For some reason my mind keeps going back to the picture of Else sitting beside Miggy cracking those nuts. And then Miggy wanting Else's nuts, and finally Miggy looking at Else like she is crazing for cracking nuts with a rock as she finally puts them into her mouth and shows Else how to crack with a molar. It just makes me laugh. Guess you can tell which was my fav story

Comment From 33mama

The nut cracking story.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

I loved it when the polar bears shoved their faces in straw and starting drooling! Just reading about those sensory experiences.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Ha!

Comment From CarolinaGirl

Miggy really wanted Else to try the mealworms!!

Comment From Kathy in NM ♥

I loved Melanka's "pet" fish!



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Yes!



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

Yes!!



Raina Krasner, WCV:
That's my favorite!



Raina Krasner, WCV:
How weird is that??

Comment From BarbG ♥ ♡•••? ♥

just ripple the water to keep them moving-great!!!

Comment From Special K

That WAS funny. I had forgotten about the fish.

Comment From Shirley - Greensboro, NC

Misty and Snowball and the watermelons in the pond story.

Comment From Carol in Oregon

I really liked playing with the frozen rabbit.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

I think I'm realizing that I loved so many of the polar bear stories. There is a book out (by Else) all about Barle!
Should be a fun read.

Comment From Kali - TX

can't remember which bear it was, but the bear showing else that a frozen chicken was NOT as good as a frozen rabbit!



Raina Krasner, WCV:

The polar bear stories were pretty great.

Comment From Peggy from Pungo (VA Beach)

Polar bears making like icebergs, rears sticking out of water

Comment From Regina, IL

Lydia, I think that was my fav too.:)

Comment From Jakermo♥♥

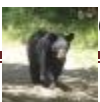
Yep, Shirley... I was going to say the part about the watermelon. LOVED that she dropped things like that.

Comment From Mary E in NC

I loved it when Barle was so happy outside and content at last!

Comment From Carol in Oregon

Was it Snoball that stretched out so long when checking out new things?



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

Book Club – Smiling Bears by Else Poulsen

It was great that Barle had a happy ending. She was saved from the circus, lived in better conditions, enrichment, and even had a cub.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

I thought it was interesting that she confirms (what we have learned too!) that orphaned cubs seem to mature faster than mothered cubs. Makes sense ... they just have to!



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

I also like saying Bear-la.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

yes! from a scientific/rehabilitation perspective, that was one of the best parts.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

And saying Bear-la is fun.

Comment From Carol in Oregon

Too funny Amanda.

Comment From Lydia, PA ♥ ♪•♪•? ♥

Loved that Barle know how to teach Talini how to hunt--even in a zoo

Comment From Doris

I don't know that I had a favorite story because she learned something different from each bear.

Comment From Teresa

Was enthralled by her experiences.

Comment From Elaine-VB VA

Loved it, except for the epilogue. Very sad as to how humans treat animals, including bears.

Comment From Mandi, PA

I love how she painted each one with a different personality, showing that just because they might look alike doesn't mean they are alike.

Comment From Kathryn in Mi

Nicholas and the pineapple and his happy humming attracting people.

Comment From Jakermo♥♥

I loved her dedication.

Comment From Jakermo♥♥

Boy, JJ really stays up on conservation and animal things.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

He does!

Comment From Carol in Orego

I love a book that gets me emotionally involved and this one certainly did.

Comment From Jersey Shore Amy

This is making me want to go back and read it again, and it's only been 3 weeks since I finished!



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

It's definitely worth a re-read!!



Raina Krasner, WCV:

So, how would everyone rate this book on Goodreads??



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

Ooooh! Yes!



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

You have to help us decide.

Comment From Kali - TX

10 stars!

Comment From MAK, PA

I give it a 10

Comment From Regina, IL

Drat my computer froze. How many are sharing this book tonight? I'd rate it a 10. What's our next book?

Comment From Special K

5

Comment From Lydia, PA ♥ ♡•x•? ♥

5

Comment From CarolinaGirl

I'm with Jakermo. Not sure I am ready to give up my book! I might need to read it again!!

Comment From Becky in SoCal

Definitely 10!

Comment From Jakermo♥♥

Yep, 10 BIG ONES!!



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

The scale is one to five.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

:)

Comment From Special K

I think Goodreads only goes up to 5.

Comment From Shirley - Greensboro, NC

Five stars on Goodreads!

Comment From 33mama

What Kali said!

Comment From BarbG ♥ ٩٠٩٠? ♥

I gave it 5 stars because I wanted to read all of it at one sitting

Comment From Jakermo♥♥

NOT HIGH ENOUGH.

Comment From 33mama

All of the stars!

Comment From Regina, IL

Oh...big FIVE

Comment From Becky in SoCal

5!

Comment From Carol in Oregon

5

Comment From MAK, PA

Ha 5 is not enough ;)

Comment From Kathy in NM ♥

When a book can make you laugh, make you cry and really make you think... 5 Stars!

Comment From Mary E in NC

O.k.. 5!!

Comment From Kali - TX

ok, ok, ok, so 5

Comment From CarolinaGirl

5!!

Comment From Doris

5!!!!!!!



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

I think we have our answer!



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

Hmmm. 3?



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

:P



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Ok, so you kind of like it?

Comment From Jakermo♥♥

NOOOOOOO



Raina Krasner, WCV:

No???

Comment From Special K

WRONG, Ms. Amanda.

Comment From 33mama

Yeah, we kind of like it. :)

Comment From Doris

YUP!



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

Oh ... 5 stars ????

Comment From Lydia, PA ♥ ♡•x•? ♥

Hey that was your gift and you only rated it as a 3?



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Oh, no. I think she's going with a 5.

Comment From Jersey Shore Amy

LOL!! She better go with 5 or no more gifts!



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

Um ... guys ... what was that about leading sheltered lives? ;) I'm pulling your leg.

Comment From Lydia, PA ♥ ٧•٢•٧? ♥

And here I was going to get you Barle Story for this Dirthday..



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

Happy Dirthday!

Comment From Lydia, PA ♥ ٧•٢•٧? ♥

we know AA you stuck out your toingue



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

Well ... I was a little worried about some folks ...

Comment From Carol in Oregon

Too funny

Comment From Doris

LOL Lydia!

Comment From Mary E in NC

Truly lol at you two!

Comment From Peggy from Pungo (VA Beach)

Wha's our next book?

Comment From Lydia, PA ♥ ٧•٢•٧? ♥

Okay, so the next book announcement?

Comment From Lydia, PA ♥ ٧•٢•٧? ♥

So, what is the next book? for next book club meeting?

Comment From Special K

What's our next book going to be? I can't wait.

Comment From Carol in Oregon

Next book please

Comment From Jakermo♥♥

LOVED it. NEXT Book??



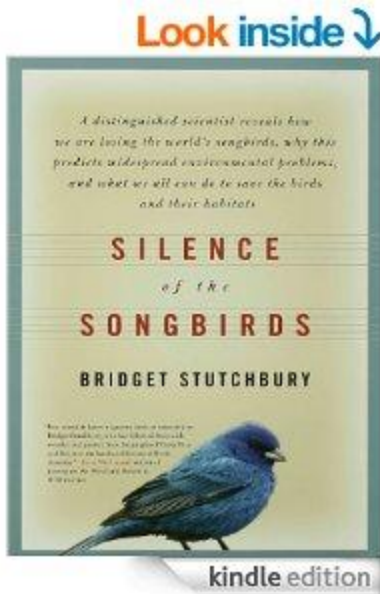
Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

WHAT IS IT??



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

Stop stalling.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Silence of the Songbirds: How We are Losing the World's Songbirds and What We Can Do to Save them by Bridget Stutchbury



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

Oooooohhhh ...

Comment From Lydia, PA ♥ ♡•••? ♥

ohhhhhh!!!!



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

So excited!

Comment From katiesmom

Ohhhhh

Comment From Carol in Oregon

Wonderful.

Comment From katiesmom

e is going to be a rash of orders tonight

Comment From Special K

oooooh. Sounds good. Don't forget to use Amazon Smile.

Comment From BarbG ♥ ♡•••? ♥

sounds great

Comment From CarolinaGirl

Gonna be a good one!!!!

Comment From Becky in SoCal

Love feathers!

Comment From Peggy from Pungo (VA Beach)

Going to check that out.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

WHEN is our next book club?

Comment From VA Kris

Ha! Already read it...you guys are gonna love it.

Comment From Doris

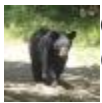
Ooo sounds interesting!

Comment From Jakermo♥♥

You tell us...

Comment From 33mama

Two months?



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

October...



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Yes! The first week of October.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

But we need your help ...

Comment From Lydia, PA ♥ ٩•٩•? ♥

with?

Comment From Jakermo♥♥

Evening

Comment From Peggy from Pungo (VA Beach)

Glad to help. what do we need to do?

Comment From Jakermo♥♥

What would you like?



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Book Club – Smiling Bears by Else Poulsen

Would an evening or daytime club meeting be best?

Comment From 33mama

Evening! Working folks (Not me) miss out on so much!

Comment From Jakermo♥♥

I did say evening.

Comment From Lynda in AZ

Evening would work best for those of us who live on the 'left coast'.

Comment From Lydia, PA ♥ ٩•٠•? ♥

evening

Comment From wren of NVA

This time was good.

Comment From Kathy in NM ♥

Evening is best for me

Comment From Carol in Oregon

evening

Comment From Doris

Evening!

Comment From Regina, IL

Just ask. Oh evening please please please

Comment From katiesmom

What do we need to do - evening is better for me

Comment From Special K

Evening.

Comment From BarbG ♥ ٩•٠•? ♥

either is fine

Comment From Mary E in NC

Evening

Comment From CarolinaGirl

evening is good.

Comment From TerryMI

evening



Sounds good!

Comment From Heidi in NH

Evening here please



Raina Krasner, WCV:

So, I think we'll stick with an evening meeting!



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

Excellent!

Comment From Lynda in AZ

I liked this evening - my husband actually made dinner! He told me to sit and 'do your class'.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

Oooh, lucky you!

Comment From Dave in Missouri

Anthropomorphism, just spelling that word made me tired, Im going to bed! Night all!



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Well, get started on reading for October's meeting!



Raina Krasner, WCV:

And thank you everyone for joining us tonight.

Comment From Kar from PA

Hi to Book Club friends -- I have a meeting at 7:00 (rats!!) so I can't be "here" but I wanted to share some of my thoughts: Reading parts of Smiling Bears was almost unbearably painful, - the cruelty inflicted on animals - but throughout the book, a shining ray of hope and joy that there are people like Else Poulsen and others who share their passion for wildlife, and that we can help in some way by raising awareness. ENJOY YOUR DISCUSSION. (My favorite part of the book was the chapter about the spectacled bears!).

Comment From BarbG ♥ ٩•٠•? ♥

thanks it was wonderful

Comment From Jakermo♥♥

WONDERFUL. THANKS... GREAT JOB!!

Comment From Doris

My husband too Lydia, I ate during class!



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

I loved everyone's thoughts and comments. Way to participate!

Comment From rejoyce

I had to miss the book club tonight, but I hope to be here next time!



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

Very good, book club gang!

Comment From 33mama

Nite Dave!

Comment From tinksmom/MO

My dogs are being very patient, they are never up this late. LOL

Comment From Peggy from Pungo (VA Beach)

Thanks, Amanda, Raina, Chapin and chatters for being here. Enjoyed it.

Comment From Kathy in NM ♥

Thank you for this evening - looking forward to October!!

Comment From tinksmom/MO

Thank you for having us!

Comment From Lydia, PA ♥ ♡•x•? ♥

Night Dave! Night CN! EXCELLENT book club meeting. I loved this. Hope JJ comes back next time too :)

Comment From Becky in SoCal

What day in Oct.?



Raina Krasner, WCV:

We'll announce this week.

Comment From 33mama

Great discussion everyone!

Comment From Becky in SoCal

Thanks to all of you. You rock.

Comment From Jakermo♥♥

Oh YES! Please invite JJ again.

Comment From Doris

Yay!

Comment From Jersey Shore Amy

Great comments and great job moderating !!

Comment From CarolinaGirl

Very good book club meeting. Loved everyone's comments. Thanks WCV ladies!!!

Comment From Carol in Oregon

Thanks everyone, it was a great meeting.

Comment From Special K

Whoooooo. Going to Amazon Smile right now. Bye everyone. Thanks so much to Amanda, Chapin and Raina.

Comment From Mary E in NC

Thank you for starting the book club - this was really fun and informative!

Comment From tinksmom/MO

Awesome!

Comment From tinksmom/MO

Alrighty then, first week in October it is! Evening works for me, I will be volunteering in school by then.

Comment From Lynda in AZ

I can't pick one favorite story. I enjoyed all of them basically because each bear had the opportunity at a wonderfully enriching life, even if in captivity.

Comment From tinksmom/MO

Good night everyone, it has been fun. SED

Comment From Heidi in NH

Thanks everyone. Looking forward to October meet.

Comment From MAK, PA

Enjoyed every minute!

Comment From Regina, IL

Else must be a very selfless and caring person. I really admire her for having such feeling for the bears and their circumstances.

Comment From Kali - TX

thanks, raina, amanda, chapin and everybody!

Comment From Kathy in NM ♥

Looking forward to reading this!

Comment From CK in Pa

I haven't been to a zoo in almost 30 years. After reading this book I want to go to a zoo to visit some Smiling Bears. I learned so much from this zoo keeper.

Comment From Becky in SoCal

I couldn't help but think about Monty and Finn at the Knoxville Zoo. They seem to be smiling now.

Comment From Sweetpea

It made me smile even more when Congo shared the link about Monty and the great place he now calls his forever home. Times have changed.

Comment From Jersey Shore Amy

I think I will ask for the Bear-la book for my birthday!



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:
(or your dirthday)



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:
Goodnight, everyone!

Comment From 33mama

GN Amanda, Raina, Chapin and CN!

Comment From Regina, IL

How many were here Amanda?



Chapin Hardy, WCV:
Night!



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:
I saw 97 at one point.

Comment From katiesmom

Tee hee Just ordered the book!

Comment From Doris

Nite all, see tomorrow for another big day!

Comment From 33mama

Thank you WCV for being so careful with critter placements!



Raina Krasner, WCV:
LOTS of book readers!

Comment From Guest

Is this book appropriate for a 4th grader?



Raina Krasner, WCV:
Hmmm ... I think it depends on the maturity level of the fourth grader, but for most, probably not. I might be wrong!

Comment From VA Kris

Dirtday...I'm celebrating that from now on...

Comment From Carol in Oregon

nighty night



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

Get some rest!!! Second Annual Double Dollars Day: Celebrate the Staff kicks off with Ed tomorrow morning at 7:30 a.m.! And the fun continues all day ... yay!



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Ahh! What an exciting week ...



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

Yippee!

Comment From 33mama

Can't wait until tomorrow!

Comment From katiesmom

Gnite girls! Gnite JJ and gnite CN

Comment From Jakermo♥♥

OH yes! Set my alarm now. Oh NO. That's 6:30

Comment From Carol in Oregon

Love this place

Comment From Kar from PA

Thanks, Mods, for late posting of my comments -- I hated missing the actual book club, but when we do the next one, in October, I'll just have to excuse myself from any darn meetings!! Good night, all