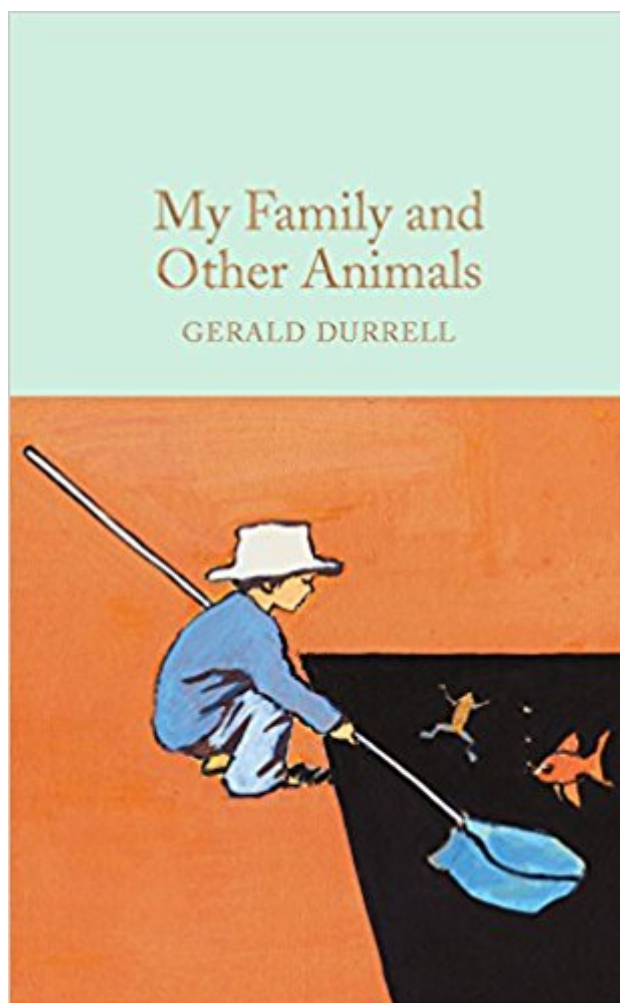


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My Family And Other Animals (Macmillan Collector's Library)



Synopsis

This book is an autobiographical account of five years in the childhood of naturalist Gerald Durrell when he lived with his family on the island of Corfu. Apart from Gerald (the youngest) and Larry (Lawrence Durrell, the novelist), the family comprised their widowed mother, the gun-mad Leslie, and diet-obsessed sister Margo together with Roger the dog. The procession of animals includes toads, and tortoises, bats and butterflies scorpions and geckos, ladybirds, glow-worms, octopuses and rose-beetles, Ulysses, the Scops owl, Quasimodo the pigeon, the puppies Widdle and Puke, and of course the magpies. The family is fiercely protected by their taxi-driver friend Spiro, and Gerald is mentored by the polymath Dr Theodore Stephanides who provides his education in natural history. With an Introduction by Peter Olney. Designed to appeal to the book lover, the Macmillan Collector's Library is a series of beautifully bound pocket-sized gift editions of much loved classic titles. Bound in real cloth, printed on high quality paper, and featuring ribbon markers and gilt edges, Macmillan Collector's Library are books to love and treasure.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 384 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

As a self-described "champion of small uglies," English writer Gerald Durrell (1925-1995) devoted his life to writing and the preservation of wildlife, from the Mauritius pink pigeon to the Rodrigues fruit bat. *My Family and Other Animals* was intended to embrace the natural history of the Greek island of Corfu, but ended up as a delightful account of his family's experiences that were, according

to him, "rather like living in one of the more flamboyant and slapstick comic operas." As a 10-year-old boy, Gerry left England for Corfu with "all those items that I thought necessary to relieve the tedium of a long journey: four books on natural history, a butterfly net, a dog, and a jam-jar full of caterpillars all in imminent danger of turning into chrysalids." Durrell's descriptions of his family and its many eccentric hangers-on (he stresses that "all the anecdotes about the island and the islanders are absolutely true") are highly entertaining, as is the procession of toads, scorpions, geckos, ladybugs, glowworms, octopuses, the puppies Widdle and Puke, and the Magenpies. This is a lovely book. --This text refers to an alternate Hardcover edition.

A bewitching book * Sunday Times * Durrell has an uncanny knack of discovering human as well as animal eccentricities * Sunday Telegraph * Wickedly funny * Jojo Moyes * --This text refers to an alternate Hardcover edition.

This is one of my all time favorite books. However I was unhappily surprised by the small size of the book and the number of typos. Perhaps I missed the size description when shopping but the typos are inexcusable. All that said I am happy to own a new copy that should last the many re-readings to come.

While I wouldn't classify this as a great book, it is a very endearing book. I have read it many times and always enjoy it thoroughly. Years ago I read it out loud to my son and we would laugh so hard we could barely get through a chapter. My son is now 52! After these many years having given away many copies, I was delighted to be able to get it on my Kindle and read it once again. I find it has lost none of its enchantment over the years, in fact, because it is of a simpler time, it may be even more enjoyable. By getting to know the young Gerald Durrell and his unusual and charming family, it is easy to see how he became such an animal expert and conservator.

This was a wonderful book about a slightly eccentric English family that moves to a Greek Island. It is told by the youngest son. He is a naturalist, so much of the book is about the animals, bugs, and birds he encounters, as well as his family and neighbors. I don't usually like overly descriptive books, I prefer a little background and then get to the point, However, his descriptions are amazing and you can see what he is seeing. I can understand why many people were disappointed in the films based on the books, because I don't see how video could possibly capture the whole feeling of the book. I heartily recommend it.

I consider this to be one of the best books I have ever read. You might as well start by reading it aloud to someone you love because you are going to be reading them all of the funny parts anyhow. The descriptions of the island are so magical, I feel like I've been there. Not yet, but I hope someday. I can't tell you how many times I've read it, but I can tell you it never gets old. I'm happy to have it on my kindle now so I can dive in at any time. Oh yeah, besides all that, having a child naturalist as storyteller - very informative as well.

I was slightly disappointed in this book. Gerald Durrell's childhood on Corfu was indeed interesting, and I would have loved to have spent some time in his shoes. He is a great writer, and paints a fantastic picture of the island. But I also often found his description of the plants and animals quite tedious, to the point that I got bored. However, when he told the tales of the lunacy that happened to his family throughout their stay on Corfu, I was captivated. In the end I am really torn on how to review this book, Durrell's life was clearly dedicated to the study/conservation of animals, you can tell there is such joy in the lengthy descriptions of his escapades with animals as a child, and I truly respect the value and joy of nature he gifted us in this book. But I also wish he could have been a little more succinct with his descriptions of nature, and kept it breezy, much like he did with the tales of his family.

A family member used to gift me with Durrell's books over the years. I grieve over the paperbacks, signed by him, that a former spouse insisted I jettison. If you enjoy animals and nature, and get a kick out of people who are mildly eccentric, you'll probably find yourselves giving this book a 5 star review also.

I read this because I really enjoyed the tv show on PBS. Pretty neat and makes me wish I could live in Corfu for a little while too.

This book is really four and a half stars and the only reason for not being 5 is it got bogged down in places but all in all, it was really enjoyable. Fans of the PBS series should like it immensely. Fun book from Gerry's perspective.

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