The author writes as if she is inside the mind of the elephant and applies all kinds of human psychology to explain elephant behavior. This is particularly troubling because she never knew the elephants before captivity, or during it for that matter. The book lacks scientific integrity and makes huge generalizations with almost no scientific backing. It is bold to compare animal suffering to the Holocaust, and in doing so she has a huge burden to justify this comparison or run the risk of being labeled an animal rights extremist. In my view, she failed this burden of proof.

The book quotes a study that found that 70% of U.S. citizens are environmentalists but only 10% act on that conviction; I consider myself in that 10%. I am concerned about the treatment of wild animals, and in that regard this book has made an impact. It has bolstered my distaste for the use of wild animals for human enjoyment and made me aware of another instance of human population growth encroaching on natural ecosystems. However, beyond that the book failed to impress me.

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**HIGHER EDUCATION**

**Communication Skills for the Biosciences: A Graduate Guide**

Aysha Divan has written a practical and solid guide for students intending to pursue a degree in the biosciences. There are other books out there, like *The Chicago Guide to Landing a Job in Academic Biology*, but these are more for the Ph.D. candidate looking for a bridge between student and faculty member. Communication Skills is intended for the graduate student practitioner, although an undergraduate would not go wrong in reading and rereading it.

Divan is a faculty member and program coordinator at the Institute of Molecular and Cellular Biology at Leeds University. Her research and program management background give her deep insight into what students need to do in order to become effective bioscientists: success with written, oral, and visual forms of communication. While the author presents checklists, strategies, and annotated examples to help avoid pitfalls, it quickly becomes obvious in reading this book that a career choice in the academic world of biosciences is not going to be pain-free. As higher-education science departments struggle to retain their science majors, having this book available to incoming students (undergraduate and graduate) might well serve both students and universities.

Divan attempts to heighten the growing awareness among bioscientists that communication is crucial for funding and promotion success. Chapters 1 through 6 cover different kinds of scientific literature, how to search and retrieve literature, and how to read for understanding. All these are things that you would think graduate students can successfully do, but to our amazement, sometimes they cannot. The author makes it clear that graduate work is most often driven by group research and that “it is important that you learn the ground rules.” One of these rules is maintaining an experimental notebook. While there are many good web-based links given in each chapter, I did not find the experimental notebook link to the Genentech Center for the History of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology to be that useful. The Web site is clunky, and after 30 minutes of searching for James Watson’s experimental notebook, I gave up.

Chapter 3 is devoted to the idea of ethics in communication and includes copyrighting, proper sharing of data, and that subject of every professor’s disdain, plagiarism. I feel that the section on plagiarism is the only part of the book that is noticeably weak. It assumes that students know what plagiarism looks like, in all of its forms, but many do not.