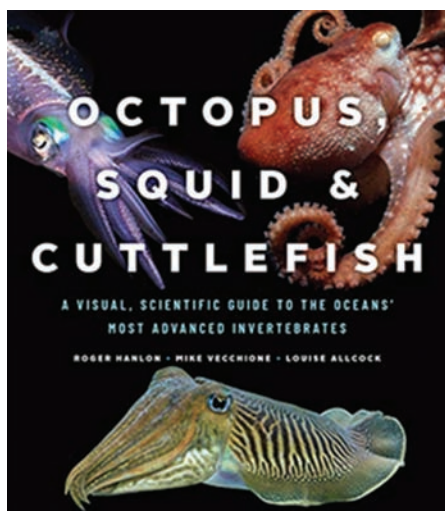


not only conflicts between science and religion, but also harmonies between them. It embodies the complexity of the relationship between the two, as well as the way in which conflict and harmony can co-occur.”

On Trial is recommended for biology educators, upper-level undergraduates, and graduate students seeking a nuanced case study that demonstrates the complex ways in which science, religion, and culture can intersect.



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MARINE SCIENCE: CEPHALOPODS

Octopus, Squid & Cuttlefish: A Visual, Scientific Guide to the Oceans' Most Advanced Invertebrates. By Roger Hanlon, Mike Vecchione, and Louise Allcock. 2018. University of Chicago Press. (ISBN 978-0-226-45956-1). 224 pp. Hardcover, \$40.

Fascinating, alien, complex, and intelligent, cephalopods are among the most interesting creatures on Earth. Written by an international team of cephalopod experts, *Octopus, Squid & Cuttlefish* presents an informative and visually stunning overview of this amazing group of creatures. Each chapter contains two main sections. The first half of each presents aspects of cephalopod biology covering five overarching topics: “Cephalopod Anatomy,” “Phylogeny & Evolution,” “Peculiar Lifestyles” (reproduction, development, locomotion, migration, and other topics), “Behavior, Cognition & Intelligence,” and “Cephalopods & Humans.” The discussion of

each subject is brief, as is appropriate for a general overview text such as this. The remainder of each chapter is devoted to several double-page spreads of representative species. Beautiful, richly colored full-page photographs provide portraits of each species presented. The text is informative and readable, and generously illustrated with clear and useful diagrams.

Cephalopod biology is so unusual that almost every page of the overview section reveals interesting biology. A discussion of the biochemistry and anatomy of cephalopod skin gives readers an understanding of how squids and octopus can display a vast array of colors and skin textures for communication and camouflage.

A section on “Dwarfs & Giants” presents the vast adult size range, which is greater than that of any other animal on Earth; included in this section are the mysterious and mythic giant and colossal squids. A section on locomotion presents the anatomical adaptations that allow for the many different methods by which cephalopods move through their aquatic environments: walking, swimming, jetting, and even flying. The section on behavior and intelligence is particularly fascinating, highlighting some of the characteristics that make this group of animals particularly unusual and unique. Within this section, readers will learn the details of communication by rapid changes in skin coloration; decision making processes (in mollusks!); the use of mimicry in some octopus species; and mating behaviors, including fights between males and sneaky cheating techniques for mating opportunities in both males and females.

The individual species profiles provide basic information for each group: a world map showing the species' range and a brief description of its classification, typical habitat, feeding habits, and other key behaviors. A full page of photographs gives the reader a look at each animal, often showing details of behavior and habitat as well. Finally, a two-paragraph discussion of each provides some more details about habitat, behavior, ecological niche, conservation status, and more. Here we find the magnificent giant Australian cuttlefish, the charming striped pyjama squid, the breathtaking blanket octopus, the “living fossil” vampire squid, and the rare shelled fuzzy nautilus, among many others.

Octopus, Squid & Cuttlefish provides an excellent overview of the world's cephalopods, detailed enough to be interesting and informative to a reader with a good biology background. Experts will probably want a more in-depth text. Students in biology, ecology, marine science, and animal behavior classes will all find value in this

book. Furthermore, anyone interested in biology, evolution, and adaptation will find perusing the pages of *Octopus, Squid & Cuttlefish* fascinating and rewarding.



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Kay, Ellie and Ari Two Scientific Girls and an Exceptional Bird



by Joel Hariton
Illustrated by Kate Hariton

FOR YOUNG SCIENTISTS

Kay, Ellie and Ari: Two Scientific Girls and an Exceptional Bird. By Joel Hariton. Illustrated by Kate Hariton. 2019. LuLu.com. (ISBN 978-1-79477-915-0). 32 pp. Paperback, \$8.95.

I just received a copy of this beautifully illustrated book, which I plan to read to my grandchildren. It tells a wonderful, whimsical story that includes important messages and lessons that many young readers, especially girls, will find meaningful and encouraging. In the story, two girls are paying close attention to the wildlife and the natural world around them. They befriend a bird that learns to talk! They set out to learn all they can about why birds mimic sounds, including the words that their new friend has learned to use. The book also focuses on diversity, an important lesson that children should hear over and over. The story encourages young readers to be thoughtful about the mysteries they find around them and to be persistent in finding explanations for those mysteries. I am also impressed with how healthy interactions are modeled between children and adults in the story. I especially like the upbeat ending, but

children's books are like that, and that is one of the great reasons why it is so much fun to read to a child.



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