



The Modern Ark: The Story of Zoos: Past, Present, and Future

By Vicki Croke

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An in-depth look at the radical changes occurring in our nation's zoos—from cement-paved mazes to simulated rain forests to completely natural landscapes—as well as the history behind the actual idea of the zoo. Following the lead of private menageries in Europe, public zoos began to proliferate throughout America. What once started as symbols of prestige and power are now educational centers, developing advanced technologies in the race to conserve all that remains of the natural world. With DNA fingerprinting, artificial insemination, embryo transfers, and egg harvesting, zoos play a critical role in the fight to save endangered species.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Perhaps the question is so obvious that we seldom ask it: Why zoos? But wildlife journalist Vicki Croke provides answers in *The Modern Ark*, a fascinating history of zoos, the animals they house, how they reflect changing attitudes, and what their future may be. Croke traveled widely to conduct prodigious reporting--interviewing humans and spending time with some amazing members of the animal kingdom--and she offers an enlightening look at zoos. Some of it is funny, some of it's disturbing. All of it is interesting.

From Library Journal

Unlike other recently published books (e.g., Michael Nichols's *Keepers of the Kingdom*, LJ 1/97) that have hailed the "conservation" efforts of zoos and their attempts to provide "naturalistic" habitat exhibits and cooperative "Species Survival Plans," Croke, who writes a syndicated "Animal Beat" newspaper column, takes a more critical and analytical look at these same efforts. Her work is sobering yet hopeful. Using examples from many of the nation's best, Croke illustrates how zoos are more a reflection of society than the animals on display. They are our link to the natural world. Croke traces the physical development of zoos and menageries from Greek and Roman times to the present?supporting her premise that how we keep animals and how we view them is a reflection of our societal value systems. This work is very entertaining, and Croke's educational points are well stated and understandable. A valuable addition to most natural history collections.?Edell Marie Schaefer, Brookfield P.L., Wis.
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From [Booklist](#)

Boston Globe journalist Croke's syndicated "Animal Beat" column appears in newspapers across the country. Here, she examines the appeal, functions, and culture of zoos in a nuanced study of an institution that, in the U.S. alone, draws more than 120 million visitors a year. Croke's *Ark* contains a good deal of science (how different species cope with zoo life's boredom and restrictions) as well as history (how zoos defined their mission over the years) and psychology, probing the "magnetism" that attracts people to such collections of animals. With a fond but critical eye, Croke notes that many animals still live in cramped spaces and insists that conservation must receive a greater share of zoo funding. "The challenge of the new zoo," she urges, is, among other things, to "allow living, breathing animals to inspire wonder and awe at the natural world" and "to illuminate the tangled and fragile web of life that sustains it." *Mary Carroll*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Nancy Adams:

Book is to be different for each grade. Book for children until eventually adult are different content. We all know that that book is very important for people. The book *The Modern Ark: The Story of Zoos: Past, Present, and Future* ended up being making you to know about other information and of course you can take more information. It doesn't matter what advantages for you. The publication *The Modern Ark: The Story of Zoos: Past, Present, and Future* is not only giving you more new information but also to get your friend when you really feel bored. You can spend your personal spend time to read your reserve. Try to make relationship with all the book *The Modern Ark: The Story of Zoos: Past, Present, and Future*. You never truly feel lose

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Marina Rutt:

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Karen Moore:

Precisely why? Because this The Modern Ark: The Story of Zoos: Past, Present, and Future is an unordinary book that the inside of the guide waiting for you to snap it but latter it will shock you with the secret the idea inside. Reading this book adjacent to it was fantastic author who all write the book in such wonderful way makes the content within easier to understand, entertaining way but still convey the meaning fully. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this any longer or you going to regret it. This phenomenal book will give you a lot of gains than the other book include such as help improving your skill and your critical thinking method. So , still want to postpone having that book? If I had been you I will go to the publication store hurriedly.

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