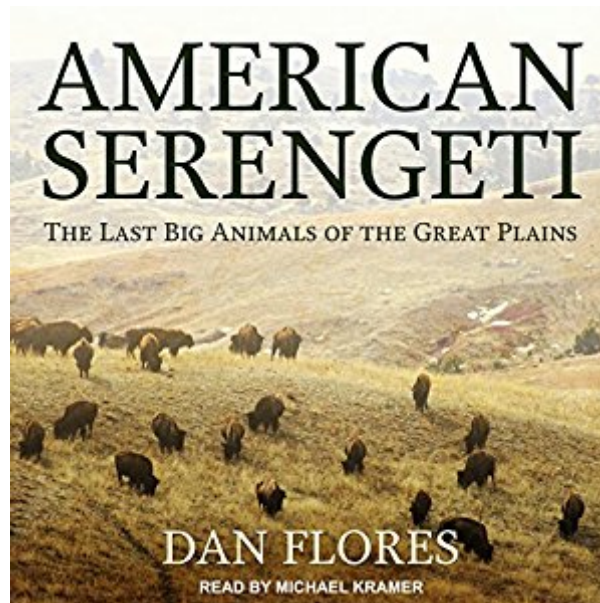




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American Serengeti: The Last Big Animals Of The Great Plains



Synopsis

America's Great Plains once possessed one of the grandest wildlife spectacles of the world, equaled only by such places as the Serengeti, the Masai Mara, or the veld of South Africa. Pronghorn antelope, gray wolves, bison, coyotes, wild horses, and grizzly bears: less than 200 years ago these creatures existed in such abundance that John James Audubon was moved to write "it is impossible to describe or even conceive the vast multitudes of these animals". In a work that is at once a lyrical evocation of that lost splendor and a detailed natural history of these charismatic species of the historic Great Plains, veteran naturalist and outdoorsman Dan Flores draws a vivid portrait of each of these animals in their glory - and tells the harrowing story of what happened to them at the hands of market hunters and ranchers and, ultimately, a federal killing program in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I had hoped for more than just a mention of those mammals which are now gone; the mammoths, short faced bears, giant sloths, great cats, etc... But understand this story was not theirs. It is a great history of those mammals which remain, though in small numbers and not so much on the plains where they once flourished. There were a few typos/mistakes which seemed out of place (Caveath Read?) and one point which seemed out of place was the final line of the chapter on the grizzly where the author described a slain grizzly as respectful, ie of humans. I didn't get the sense elsewhere the author buys into anthromorphism, and the use there seemed unusual and

unnecessary to make his point. I really appreciated his describing the history of attempts to preserve great plains ecological zones in the past and current efforts. Sadly I believe given the current view in congress seeking to sell our current public lands, any plans dependent on government funding or other congressional action will fail.

Dan Flores writes with a style that personalizes the science of the Great Plains and makes its beauty and unique character accessible to the reader. His ability to return the reader to the plains of early America, teeming with grizzlies, wolves, pronghorn, buffalo, and other large species and explain their historical place reminds us of how special and beautiful the plains once were. His advocacy for rewilding some part of that vast expanse is better understood thanks to Flores' recitation of the past glories of the "American Serengeti". The biological richness that once teemed on the plains is now starkly contrasted by the emptiness of what is often referred to as "fly-over country" today. Well-researched, using material from biologists, archeologists, and primary historical sources from those who traveled the plains before the loss of the mega-fauna, Flores' work represents some of the best environmental history on a region neglected by scholars as much as modern travelers. None who read this work will drive through that region again without wondering at what we have lost and might, with serious commitment, regain

Really a great read. It is hard to fathom all the killing of wildlife that took place in the 1800's but it's a story worth telling and it should be done accurately. Hopefully too, people will read this and become inspired to support a national park that is truly oriented to our native prairie and all of the natural wonders that one called them home.

Joe rogan led me here and it was worth it. Grew up on the high plains, brought me home.

It opens your eyes and makes you think from a different perspective.

very interesting book , well written & enjoyable to read .

Great book that provides an amazing history of the american plains and the animals that have lived there!

I've heard Dan Flores speak on the MeatEater podcast multiple times and had to pick up his book.

It's an excellent work; an unadulterated story of some of the great wildlife in the great plains. I highly enjoyed reading it and look forward to more work from Dan Flores.

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