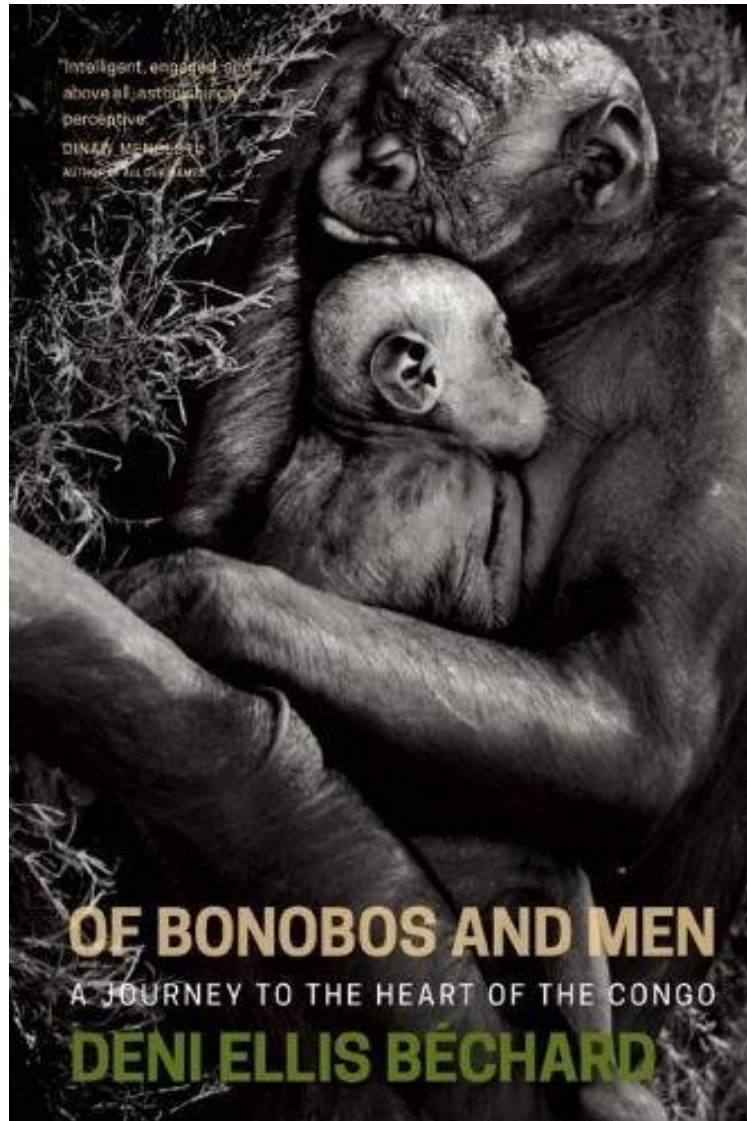


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Of Bonobos and Men: A Journey to the Heart of the Congo

Deni Ellis Bechard

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Deni Ellis Bechard : Of Bonobos and Men: A Journey to the Heart of the Congo before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Of Bonobos and Men: A Journey to the Heart of the Congo:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. While this book focuses more on humans than bonobos, ...By Kappy Hall While this book focuses more on humans than bonobos, it presents a deep understanding of the politics of the Congo region that is helpful in understanding how to partner effectively with Africans to respond to the urgent need for conservation - of species and habitats. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Informative and

provocativeBy DonnajunebugWonderful book not only about the Bonobos but about their fate and those who are trying to save them.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Insightful, moving, and entertainingBy Austin S. LinEmpty Hands, Open Arms provides a compelling insight into the history and evolution of bonobo conservation in the Congo. There are lessons within for all of us who are trying to save our planet.

Bonobos have captured the public imagination in recent years, due not least to their famously active sex lives. Less well known is the fact that these great apes dont kill their own kind, and that they share nearly 99% of our DNA. Their approach to building peaceful coalitions and sharing resources has much to teach us, particularly at a time when our violent ways have pushed them to the brink of extinction. Animated by a desire to understand bonobos and learn how to save them, acclaimed author Deni Ellis Bchard traveled into the Congo.Of Bonobos and Men is the account of this journey. Along the way, we see how partnerships between Congolese and Westerners, with few resources but a common purpose and respect for indigenous knowledge, have resulted in the protection of vast swaths of the rainforest. And we discover how small solutionsfound through openness, humility, and the principle that poverty does not equal ignoranceare often most effective in tackling our biggest challenges. Combining elements of travelogue, journalism, and natural history, this incomparably rich book takes the reader not only deep into the Congo, but also into our past and future, revealing new ways to save the environment and ourselves.

From BooklistIn the great-ape category of endangered species, gorillas and chimpanzees have so far received the bulk of media attention, mostly due to celebrity zoologists such as Dian Fossey and Jane Goodall championing their cause. Hence, until recently, one unusualand endangeredprimate, the bonobo of the Congo rain forest, had been comparatively overlooked by photojournalists and TV nature-show producers, perhaps because the animals penchant for promiscuous sex would make filming a tad risqu. Fortunately, a nongovernmental organization called the Bonobo Conservation Initiative (BCI) has been quietly but effectively protecting bonobos habitat and convincing their human neighbors to stop hunting them. For this absorbing report on the BCIs innovative methods, renowned journalist Blchard mingled with Congo villagers and BCI fieldworkers, observing how the conservationists forged alliances with villagers to build new schools and create jobs. In a country torn by unremitting military strife and rapacious mining, BCIs work has also helped slow rain-forest destruction. Blchards masterful, adventure-driven reporting delivers an inspiring account of an all-too-rare ecological success story. --Carl Hays Intelligent, engaged, astonishingly perceptive.Dinaw MengestuA seed of hope in our times garden of despair.Dale PetersonThis adventure reveals not a heart of darkness but a rich world of light, shade, and imperiled life, a connection between the human and the great circle of being.James Engell