

The book was found

Planet Ocean: A Story Of Life, The Sea, And Dancing To The Fossil Record



Synopsis

This is the paperback edition of the great pop-paleontology book with the fabulous art that inspired a show that toured the nation's natural history museums. In its own way it has inspired many people to take a new look at the fossil record and imagine creatures and things as they might have been; a blend of word and image unlike any other. From the Trade Paperback edition.

Book Information

Hardcover: 144 pages

Publisher: Ten Speed Press (November 1, 1994)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0898156181

ISBN-13: 978-0898156188

Product Dimensions: 9.9 x 10.4 x 0.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.2 pounds

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars See all reviews (6 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #145,718 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #2 in Books > Science & Math > Biological Sciences > Paleontology > Paleobiology #95 in Books > Science & Math > Nature & Ecology > Ecosystems #195 in Books > Science & Math > Nature & Ecology > Oceans & Seas

Customer Reviews

The late Carl Sagan thought that science should be "user-friendly," presented not in jargon but in regular English. He believed that the general public could -- and should -- have access to the latest scientific discoveries. Sagan would be proud of *Planet Ocean*. The central theme of the book is stated clearly on page 1: "Nature is a workshop, not a temple." Matsen spends the rest of the book supporting this concept, explaining that life is not a stately, well-executed design where species climb a ladder of progress; rather, evolution is an inescapable and completely random condition. Animals and plants breed, have offspring that are slightly different, and continue to become slightly more different with each successive generation until the distant grandkids look nothing like the original parent. In addition, through totally weird, sometimes avoidable and sometimes unavoidable circumstances, the species as a whole will either do very well, or get pushed out of the scene. The environment works like the stock market -- fortunes are made, and fortunes are lost. (The metaphor of "rolling the dice" comes up more than once.) Matsen's prose is engaging, entertaining, and extremely informative. In one of my favorite sections, he describes the success of the trilobites (who survived for 300 million years in Earth's oceans): "They would eat anything and breed anywhere,

and they made themselves as unattractive to predators as possible. We all have relatives like them. From [trilobites] and their success and longevity, an evolutionary rule of thumb has emerged: 'The more specialized a species, the less able to cope with change it will be once the inevitable happens and old habitats change beyond the point of recognition' [...].

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Planet Ocean: A Story of Life, the Sea, and Dancing to the Fossil Record Prehistoric Life: Evolution and the Fossil Record The Dead Sea: The Saltiest Sea (Great Record Breakers in Nature) Written in Stone: Evolution, the Fossil Record, and Our Place in Nature Introduction to Paleobiology and the Fossil Record Avian Evolution: The Fossil Record of Birds and its Paleobiological Significance (TOPA Topics in Paleobiology) The Human Fossil Record, Craniodontal Morphology of Early Hominids (Genera Australopithecus, Paranthropus, Orrorin), and Overview (Volume 4) Species and Speciation in the Fossil Record Rereading the Fossil Record: The Growth of Paleobiology as an Evolutionary Discipline The Human Fossil Record, Brain Endocasts: The Paleoneurological Evidence, Volume 3 New Approaches to Speciation in the Fossil Record Coastal and Estuarine Processes (Advanced Series on Ocean Engineering) (Advanced Series on Ocean Engineering (Paperback)) Random Seas and Design of Maritime Structures (Ocean Engineering) (Advanced Series on Ocean Engineering (Paperback)) Oceanography in the Tongue of the Ocean, Bahamas, B.W.I.: a report on oceanographic observations in the Tongue of the Ocean between Fresh Creek, Andros and the western end of New Providence Big Blow: A Tale From Ocean City (Ocean City Mysteries Book 3) La peticiÃƒÂn del seÃƒÂn Baker.: BilogÃƒÂ- a SeÃƒÂn Baker. (BilogÃƒÂ- a SeÃƒÂn Baker (Segunda parte) nÃƒÂ 2) (Spanish Edition) El Super Deportista Cientifico / Sports Science: Anota, gana y rompe un record en tu deporte favorito/ Note, gain and break the record of your favorite sport (Spanish Edition) Goldmine Record Albums Price Guide (Goldmine Record Album Price Guide) Off the Record (The Record Series Book 1) For the Record (The Record Series Book 3)

[Dmca](#)