

# [PDF] Mean And Lowly Things: Snakes, Science, And Survival In The Congo

Kate Jackson - pdf download free book

---



**Books Details:**

Title: Mean and Lowly Things: Snakes  
Author: Kate Jackson  
Released: 2008-04-30  
Language:  
Pages: 336  
ISBN: 0674029747  
ISBN13: 978-0674029743  
ASIN: 0674029747

[\*\*CLICK HERE FOR DOWNLOAD\*\*](#)

---

pdf, mobi, epub, azw, kindle

**Description:**

**From** Herpetologist Jackson is candid, funny, and precise as she chronicles her demanding and illuminating experiences collecting snakes, frogs, and toads in the flooded forests of the Congo. A Canadian in love with snakes practically since birth, Jackson wanted to do her part in extending our knowledge of the planet's precious and endangered biodiversity and had no idea of just how grueling fieldwork would be in the Republic of Congo. Sharply observant, disciplined, considerate, and tough, Jackson is immensely entertaining in her exuberantly detailed descriptions of swarms of termites,

ants, and mosquitoes; unpalatable food; and painfully rugged campsites. Add to that nearly surreal negotiations with officials, confounding and emotional relationships with guides and assistants, medical misadventures, and moments ludicrous and dramatic as she chases down poisonous snakes, handles motley animal remains, and struggles to preserve and identify priceless specimens and forge cross-cultural scientific partnerships. Jackson is a dynamo, and her riveting, amusing, and revealing tales from the biodiversity front line awaken fresh appreciation for hands-on scientific inquiry and the wonders of nature. --Donna Seaman

**Review** Indiana Jones, step aside! Kate Jackson is an intrepid adventurer and explorer, and her passion for research, discovery, and snakes resonates from every page of this gripping account of a woman in science.

--Meg Lowman, author of *Life in the Treetops* and *It's a Jungle Up There*

This is the sort of book that makes hardcore field biologists cry out, "take me to the rainforest." For the rest of you, enjoying the sanity and comforts of the armchair adventurer, I suggest you hang on and enjoy the ride.

--Mark W. Moffett, Research Scientist, Smithsonian Institution and recipient of the Lowell Thomas Medal of the Explorer's Club

Kate Jackson's field memoir detailing her experiences in the Republic of Congo is a delight that thrills and informs the reader. In relating her adventures conducting a herpetological survey and collecting venomous snakes, she brings to vivid life the harsh realities of fieldwork with its frustrations and disappointments. We're with her as she battles loneliness, parasites, and uncertainties and adapts to a foreign culture. And we share her personal highs and the swamp forest's allure. Bravo to this intrepid herpetologist!

--Marty Crump, author of *Headless Males Make Great Lovers and Other Unusual Natural Histories*

This is what exploratory natural history in a remote place, embedded in a very different culture, is really like--frustrating, confusing, scary, and fraught with prospects for failure. Jackson tells the truth even when it doesn't necessarily reflect well on her, and did I mention she's a small woman working in places where, I'm not kidding, most male herpetologists wouldn't dare to go? *Mean and Lowly Things* is genuine adventure, without the swashbuckling!

--Harry W. Greene, Cornell University Professor and author of *Snakes: The Evolution of Mystery in Nature*

It is always exciting to read about remote, natural places in the world and even more so when the story is told by a field researcher. In the tradition of Jane Goodall...Jackson has written a fascinating, adventure-filled memoir, describing how her love of snakes led her to become a herpetologist. She was eventually able to raise money for a survey of reptiles and amphibians in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, specifically in the flooded forest habitat around Lac Télé. Drawing from her journal entries, Jackson takes us through the planning, permits, and travel, as well as her actual time in the field catching animals. Jackson learns to work with her native field staff during her two collecting trips and shows appreciation for all the local people she meets and employs.

--Margaret Henderson (*Library Journal* 2008-03-15)

Herpetologist Jackson is candid, funny, and precise as she chronicles her demanding and illuminating experiences collecting snakes, frogs, and toads in the flooded forests of the Congo... Sharply observant, considerate, and rough, Jackson is immensely entertaining in her exuberantly detailed descriptions of swarms of termites, ants, and mosquitoes; unpalatable food; and painfully rugged campsites. Add to that nearly surreal negotiations with officials, confounding relationships with guides and assistants, medical misadventures, and moments ludicrous and dramatic as she

chases down poisonous snakes, handles animal remains, and snuggles to preserve and identify priceless specimens and forge cross-cultural scientific partnerships. Jackson is a dynamo, and her riveting, amusing, and revealing tales from the biodiversity front line awaken fresh appreciation for hands-on scientific inquiry and the wonders of nature.

--Donna Seaman (*Booklist* 2008-04-15)

In our age of Google Maps, it's comforting to learn that a few places remain relatively impenetrable to the outside world. Nowhere is this more true than the Congo, which has long held a fascination for explorers and scientists and continues to guard its secrets...Descriptions of ant invasions, maggots under the skin, sleepless nights, bad food and even the odd venomous snake bite all keep the pages turning. Against the odds, Jackson's efforts in the Congo eventually pay off--not only does she discover a new species, she also finds romance. This intriguing blend of science and human interest, related in a matter-of-fact style, brings to life a little-known part of the world.

--Dan Eatherley (*BBC Wildlife* 2008-07-01)

This book will serve as an inspiration to future field biologists. It is also an exciting adventure story for those who would rather avoid the ants, termites, wasps, and the fly maggots that burrow into the biologists' skin and grow larger there.

--M. P. Gustafson (*Choice* 2008-09-01)

Fieldwork is very important but unsung. Jackson deserves respect for her drive, ability to organize and manage her fieldwork alone, train local students, and to learn the local language without losing sight of the scientific aims...She is refreshingly honest about the failures, mistakes and difficulties of her fieldwork as well as the successes...*Mean and Lowly Things* is full of incident and cultural as well as scientific insight that should carry non-scientific readers right to the end.

--David J. Gower (*Times Literary Supplement* 2008-12-12)

As a travel book, Kate Jackson's account of snake collecting in the tropics is both humorous and dramatic...As an account of biological fieldwork under trying conditions, however, Jackson's book is both elegant and appealing...There are probably only a few specialists who can fully appreciate the professional journal articles on the biodiversity of the Congo forest that resulted from Jackson's expeditions. And only a few adventurous readers may share her "irrational longing to return" to the Lac Télé forest, which, judging from her online blog, she did in the summer of 2008. But we can all hope that she will continue writing, and that we won't have to wait too long for the next installment of *Kate Jackson's Excellent Adventures*, wherever they may lead.

--Laurence A. Marschall (*Natural History* 2008-11-01)

- 
- Title: Mean and Lowly Things: Snakes, Science, and Survival in the Congo
  - Author: Kate Jackson
  - Released: 2008-04-30
  - Language:
  - Pages: 336
  - ISBN: 0674029747
  - ISBN13: 978-0674029743

- ASIN: 0674029747
-