



Here Be Dragons: How the Study of Animal and Plant Distributions Revolutionized Our Views of Life and Earth

By Dennis McCarthy

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Why do we find polar bears only in the Arctic and penguins only in the Antarctic? Why are marsupials found only in Australia and South America? In a book that *Science News* called "fascinating and revelatory," Dennis McCarthy tells a story that encompasses two great, insightful theories that together explain the strange patterns of life across the world--evolution and plate tectonics. We find animals and plants where we do because, over time, the continents have moved, separating and uniting in a long, slow dance; because sea levels have risen, cutting off one bit of land from another; because new and barren volcanic islands have risen up from the sea; and because animals and plants vary greatly in their ability to travel, and separation causes the formation of new species. This is the story of how life has responded to, and has in turn altered, the ever-changing Earth. And it includes many fascinating tales--of pygmy mammoths and elephant birds and of radical ideas by bold young scientists.

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Editorial Review

Review

"It's a grand time-and-space voyage of the imagination, the drift of continents, the appearance and rise and fall and extinction of new species, the human story with all its tragedy and complexity.... Read this one, a great pleasure, and...at the end of the book you will be someone different." -- Dan Agin, *Huffington Post*

"[Here Be Dragons] provides a quick but enthusiastic summary of the fascinating field of biogeography, and it leaves us wanting more. The book delivers on its promise that we will never look at the world in the same way again." -- Devorah Bennu, *Science Magazine*

"This is a fascinating, accessible work, which offers a new, more complete perspective on the world we live in. McCarthy packs a tremendous amount in 200 pages but his writing skill is such that the reader never feels overwhelmed and turns each page with as much entertainment as enlightenment.... Fans of Jared Diamond or Richard Dawkins will be fans of the eloquent Dennis McCarthy." -- Lynn Harnett, *Portsmouth Herald (Seacoast Sunday)*

"With a knowledge of Earth history at his disposal, a precision and clarity reminiscent of other great science popularizers, and a courteous tone to smooth out any stubborn complexities, McCarthy makes biogeography into a story that is both intelligible and compelling." -- Mark Cocker, *BBC Wildlife Magazine*

"Fascinating and revelatory." -- Sid Perkins, *Science News*

About the Author

Denis McCarthy is a researcher at the Museum of Natural History at Buffalo.

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