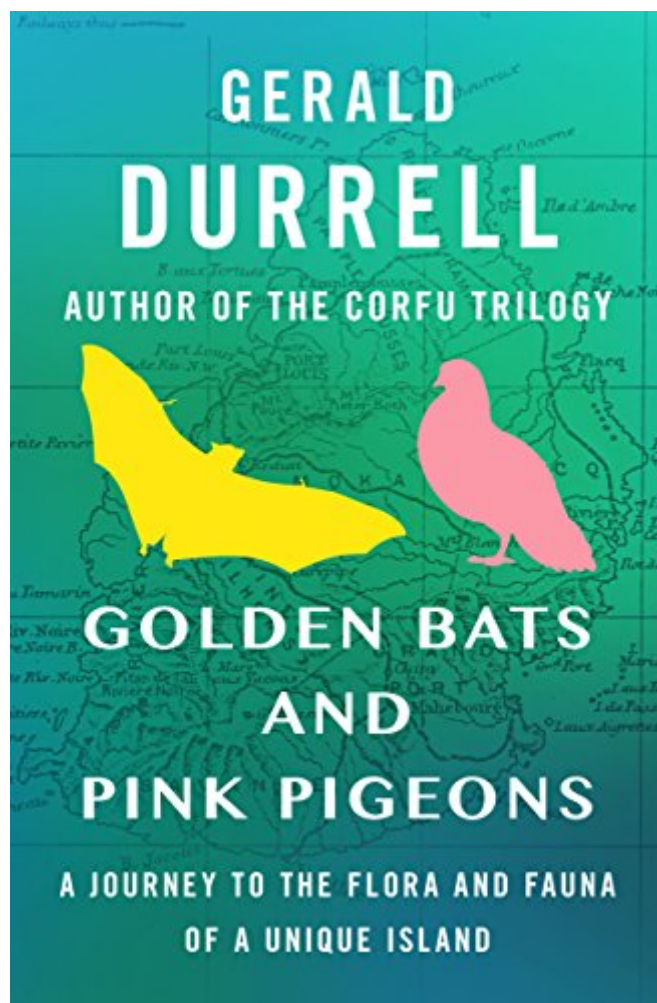




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Golden Bats And Pink Pigeons: A Journey To The Flora And Fauna Of A Unique Island



Synopsis

Travel to Mauritius on a quest to save endangered species with the British naturalist whose work inspired Masterpiece production *The Durrells in Corfu*. The green and mountainous island of Mauritius in the Indian Ocean was once the home of the ill-fated dodo. The island saw many other animals vanish from its soil, and by the 1970s, numerous species were close to being eliminated. Enter Gerald Durrell. *À* *À* Durrell sets out on a search for bats and pink pigeons, climbing near-vertical rock faces to find Telfair*À* *À* skinks and Gunther*À* *À* geckos, and swimming about coral reefs with multicolored marine life. But rounding up a collection to take back with him to his animal sanctuary in the English Channel won*À* *À* be easy: There are many dangers awaiting him. *À* *À* *Golden Bats and Pink Pigeons* is a delightful and inspiring adventure by the author of *My Family and Other Animals*, among other much-loved memoirs. *À* *À* This ebook features an illustrated biography of Gerald Durrell including rare photos from the author*À* *À* estate. *À* *À* *À* *À*

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Customer Reviews

Golden Bats and Pink Pigeons: A Journey to the Flora and Fauna of a Unique Island is the

entertaining story of Gerald Durrell's experience on Mauritius in the Indian Ocean where he collected rare specimens for his animal sanctuary. The Dodo had already vanished from the island and by the 1970s many more species were going the way of the Dodo. Durrell tales are entertaining and funny. His description of the Jak fruit as "an obscene green fruit, covered with knobs and looking rather like the corpse of a Martian baby" sent me into hysterics. My husband and I had just seen one at Kroger two days before. The Jak was meant to lure the Golden Bats and had a pungent smell "vaguely reminiscent of a putrefying body." And the produce man told us it was like "Juicy Fruit" gum! Glad we were not tempted. After several delays, which involved the party's eating the bat fruit before it spoiled and buying more, the team finally landed on Rodriguez island. That evening the mosquitoes attacked. "I'm rather glad we came really, I would hate to think of all these mosquitoes going hungry," remarked one of the party. "Yes it's a form of conservation, really." Durrell replied. The party must contend with other invasions as well, by giant land snails that invaded their tent and ate their food and baby Shearwaters that invade their bed. The descriptions of Mauritius's flora, fauna, and coral reefs are vivid and gorgeous. My favorite was the chapter on the coral reefs, The Enchanted World. His writing is evocative and lovely as he describes experiencing the overwhelming life and color of the reef. You understand his enchantment. As I read this chapter I experienced a tightness in the pit of my stomach, fearful that these teeming reefs are dying like reefs all over the world. I checked it out. The reef is suffering from higher temperature water due to El Nino events, and is also impacted by a billion tourists a year and the agricultural runoff from the island. Mother Earth is losing her children from human impact and climate change. Durrell strove to save species from extinction. I am glad to have read his memoir and learned about his work. I thank the publisher for the free ebook through NetGalley in exchange for a fair and unbiased review.

There is something so delicious and fascinating about reading Gerald Durrell's books. They are full of humor and I relish that and they also take you to places that, frankly, I'll never go, finding it pleasing where I am here on the coast of Maine. In *GOLDEN BATS AND PINK PIGEONS*, Gerald Durrell takes us to Mauritius. I don't know where that is? Visualize the map of Africa that one of your teachers might have pulled down in front of one of your long ago classrooms. See that island off the right hand side? That's Madagascar and Mauritius is off to the left of that. And it seems as if it might be a tropical paradise! Not so Round Island that he also visits that is off Mauritius, an eroded volcanic cone that presents all kinds of problems trying to catch various reptiles along with a good bit of comedy, for Durrell knows how to laugh at himself and is

adept at it. Of course you also meet weird and strange creatures you may have never known existed. So join Durrell and his friends as he sets off on yet another fascinating adventure to capture creatures to breed at his breeding zoo before they disappear from our Earth.

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