

Chasing Doctor Dolittle

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slobodchikoff's ground breaking research jonathan balcombe shows us that animals have much to teach us about language groundbreaking research has been done teaching animals human language but what about the other way around studies have shown that lizards squid monkeys and birds are talking to each other communicating information about food predators squabbles and petty jealousies these animal languages are unique and highly adaptive by exploring them we come to appreciate the basis of our own languages understanding or even speaking them allows us to get closer to the other species who inhabit this planet with us the implications of animals having language are enormous it has been one of the last bastions separating us from them slobodchikoff's studies of the

communication system of prairie dogs over twenty five years have attracted a considerable amount of attention from the media including a one hour documentary on his work produced by bbc and animal planet in chasing doctor dolittle he posits that the difference is one of degree not the vast intellectual chasm that philosophers have talked about for millennia filled with meticulous research vivid examples and daring conclusions this book will challenge the reader s assumptions and open up new possibilities of understanding our fellow creatures

this treasury contains selections from eight of the original dr dolittle books in which readers meet the lovable man who can talk to the animals

john dolittle is a very busy doctor with a wife and two daughters and he likes his ordinary life very much but that s all over when dr dolittle gets a bad bump on the head the next thing dolittle learns is that not only can he understand what animals are saying when they bark bleat meow but he can also talk back to them a dog calls him a bonehead he hears a guinea pig singing songs and he has an argument with a couple of rats who hang out in a dumpster soon all the animals in town are coming to him for medical advice is he imagining it is this a nightmare will it ever stop dolittle doesn t know he only knows that something has to change or he s going to lose his mind

sophie the seal needs rescuing but it is no mean feat even for the doctor who can talk to animals especially when he has to pretend that sophie is his sick relative this story is madly exciting and excitingly mad

this omnibus edition contains eight complete stories about dr dolittle who could talk to animals it includes incidents such as the way he realizes his gifts with animals his meeting with the pushmi pullu and how he sets off to sea

although at first he plans only to exhibit the pushmi pullu john dolittle soon becomes manager of a very special circus

doctor dolittle s garden is teeming with insects including a giant moth from a world beyond earth

the adventures of a kind hearted doctor who is fond of animals and understands their

language as he travels to africa with some of his favorite pets to cure the monkeys of a terrible sickness

john dolittle is a kind hearted country physician who keeps goldfish in his pond rabbits in the pantry white mice in a piano and a hedge hog in the cellar he also has an unusual gift he can talk to animals a talent that comes in handy since he prefers treating animals rather than humans as his patients

dolittle is an english gentleman who finds himself in the wrong occupation a doctor of people and gradually withdraws from society becoming a poor down and out town recluse one day his english speaking pet parrot polynesia lets him in on a secret that animals have a language of their own dolittle now able to understand the complaints of animals becomes a successful and world renowned doctor of animals animal language is the central device of the series in an age when every disney film features english speaking animals it seems almost normal but lofting makes it seem new and marvelous indeed the animals don

life s become a lot more complicated for dr dolittle now that he can talk to animals sometimes they expect him to solve their problems when a lumber company begins cutting down forest animals homes the animals ask dolittle for his help it has to be you doc the frightened creatures beg him you re the only one we know who speaks human the only way to save the forest is to find a mate for ava an endangered pacific western bear who lives there dolittle does locate a match archie a singing dancing bear who has been raised in captivity but ava isn t interested in archie and archie wants to be onstage not hibernating in the forest can dr dolittle count on archie to win ava over and become a proud papa to little bear cubs or are the forest animals and their homes destined for destruction includes 8 pages of full color photographs from the movie

hugh lofting 1886 1947 is best known for his classic series of children s books depicting doctor dolittle the kindhearted eccentric veterinarian whose ability to converse with animals and whose astounding travels with a cadre of critters have delighted readers for more than 70 years beginning with the story of doctor dolittle in 1920 lofting went on to write eleven other dolittle books among them the newbery medal winning the voyages of doctor dolittle while critics have praised the dolittle books for their humor wit and imagination and while the dolittle character has captivated audiences in screen and stage adaptations lofting s

larger message one concerning issues of peace and justice has often been overlooked that lofting's work deserves reconsideration is the thesis of this new study by gary d schmidt drawing on not only extensive research but also numerous personal communications with lofting's family members schmidt provides fresh insights into his subject's life and work in clear engaging prose schmidt argues that lofting viewed his writing as a political and moral task to encourage peace by providing children with examples of kindness gentleness compassion and tolerance in an illuminating first chapter readers learn intriguing biographical information for instance that the story of doctor dolittle perhaps lofting's greatest work had its beginnings in a series of story letters that lofting writing from the trenches of world war i sent home to his children subsequent chapters examine each of the dolittle books as well as lofting's lesser known works among them the essay children and internationalism and the long poem victory for the slain an important addition to existing studies in children's literature hugh lofting will appeal to scholars students and general readers alike included are a preface chronology notes bibliography and index as well as illustrations book jacket title summary field provided by blackwell north america inc all rights reserved

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