Empire and the Animal Body
Violence, Identity and Ecology in Victorian Adventure Fiction

John Miller

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Description
A critical reassessment of the significance of exotic animals in Victorian adventure literature.

Empire and the Animal Body: Violence, Identity and Ecology in Victorian Adventure Fiction develops recent work in animal studies, eco-criticism and postcolonial studies to reassess the significance of exotic animals in Victorian adventure literature. Depictions of violence against animals were integral to the ideology of adventure literature in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. However, the evolutionary hierarchies on which such texts relied were complicated by developing environmental sensitivities and reimagining of human selfhood in relation to animal others. As these texts hankered after increasingly imperilled areas of wilderness, the border between human and animal appeared tense, ambivalent and problematic.

‘An excellent inquiry into the inscription of environmental violence in imperial adventure fiction and its bearings on the genre’s popularity. Lucid, rigorous and assured, it promises to be a foundational text at the juncture of Victorian studies, ecocriticism and colonial history.’ —Dr Anthony Carrigan, Keele University

Readership: This book will benefit students and academics studying nineteenth- and twentieth-century and children’s literature, postcolonial studies, animal studies and environmental history.

Contents
List of Illustrations; Acknowledgments; Introduction; Chapter 1: Otherness and Order; Chapter 2: Scientists and Specimens; Chapter 3: The Animal Within; Chapter 4: Wild Men and Wilderness; Conclusion; Bibliography; Index

About the Author
John Miller is currently a lecturer in nineteenth-century literature at the University of Sheffield. He has published widely on animal studies and eco-criticism, particularly in relation to British Empire writing and postcolonial studies.

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