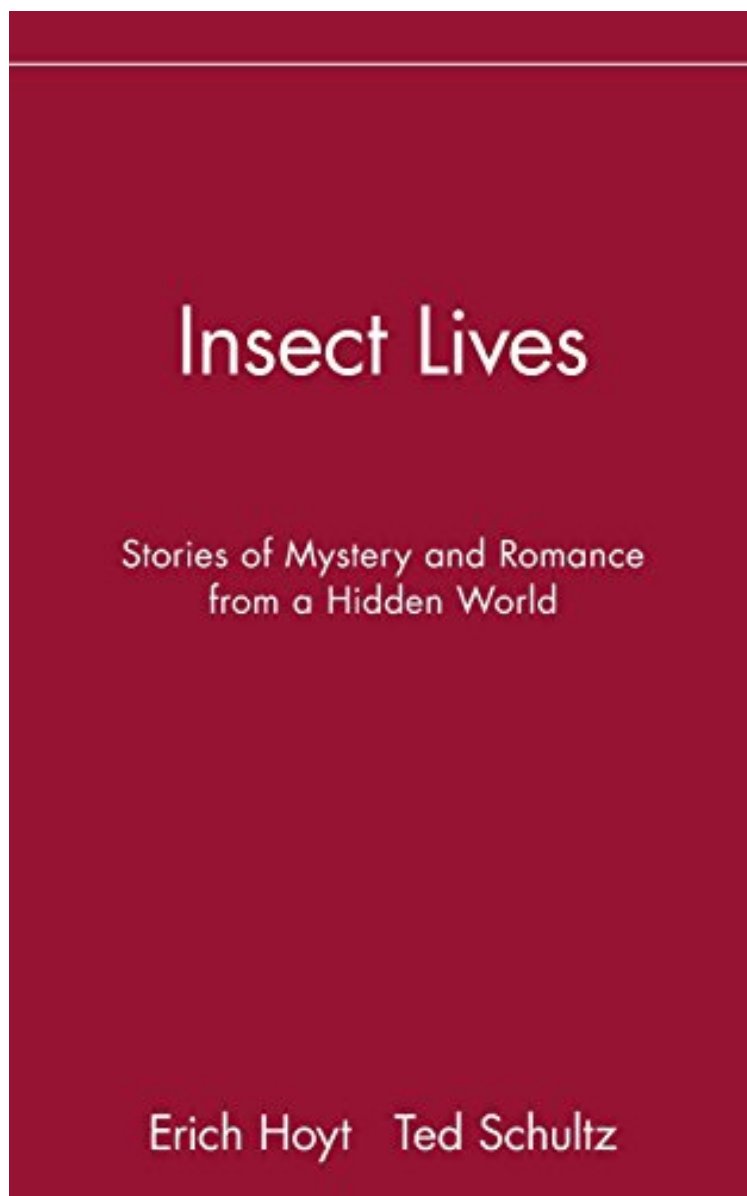


(Ebook free) Insect Lives: Stories of Mystery and Romance from a Hidden World

Insect Lives: Stories of Mystery and Romance from a Hidden World

From Erich Hoyt

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From Erich Hoyt : Insect Lives: Stories of Mystery and Romance from a Hidden World before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Insect Lives: Stories of Mystery and Romance from a Hidden World:

10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. An entertaining and comprehensive book
By Mark B. If you're interested in insects, this book is for you. An excellent collection of a large quantity of writings and other materials, all about insects. Good bedside reading, as each excerpt is relatively short.
14 of 14 people found the following review helpful. A cornucopia of creepy-crawlies
By Dennis Littrell This is a beautifully and cleverly edited eclectic collection of stories, articles, poems, scientific treatises, and even cartoons about insects. There are quaint stories from the eighteenth century, studious articles from the nineteenth, and modern selections from such twentieth century experts as Edward O. Wilson, Roger B. Swain, Karl von Frisch, May Berenbaum, Harold Oldroyd and others. Charles Darwin is represented, Aristotle, Alfred Russel Wallace, Thoreau, even the Bible makes an appearance. There are selections from a novella, A.S. Byatt's "Morpho Eugenia"; poems, Wordsworth's "To a Butterfly," Robert Burns's "To a Louse"; and even a bit of a movie, THEM! (1954). Obviously, editors, Hoyt and Schultz are as intent at entertaining as informing. You'll find dozens of different insects here, from house flies and ants to dung beetles and glow-worms to ticks, wasps, silverfish, etc. Each selection is presented with a short note from the editors and followed by a bibliographical entry. There is an index of authors and one of subjects. The selections are collected under various heading, e.g., "Insects Praised," "Insects Reviled," "Insect Architecture," etc. The sheer breath of insect behavior presented here is unnerving: How multifarious are the realities of life! Noteworthy is the meticulous care taken with the editing and proofreading. This is a good and strange read.
7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Unusual and interesting
By M. Broderick This book is a collection of short pieces about every conceivable type of insect. A few are complete essays, but most are excerpts from longer works. At least one is a one-panel Gary Larson cartoon! Most of the selections are entertaining, or at least interesting. Many are records of direct observation by naturalists in the 19th or early 20th Centuries. Usually they have some distinguishing feature such as freakish behavior, first observation, or an exceptionally interesting experiment included. This is not a scientific book on insects-- Although many of the authors are scientists, the excerpts don't fit together to make a textbook or organized survey of insects. What it is is very interesting and entertaining--A good bathroom or bedside book for the insect-lover. Definitely do not choose it as your first or only book in trying to learn about insects, but it makes a good addition to the insect library of an enthusiast.

A Wonderful Journey into the Insect World through Literature, Science, Art, and Popular Culture
Aristotle on metamorphosis * Alfred Russel Wallace on the rare butterflies of the Malay Archipelago * Jean-Henri Fabre on the art of the dung beetle * Dave Barry on naming the U.S. Official National Insect * Charles Darwin on seagoing insects * William Beebe on an army ant invasion * Kevin Kelly on bee and human swarming * Jonathan Schell on postnuclear insect survival * Gary Larson on when insects take over * May Berenbaum on maggots and murderers * Henry David Thoreau on race wars among the ants * Thomas Eisner on stealth bugs * David George Gordon on appreciating the lowly cockroach * Maurice Maeterlinck on the queen-bee's wedding * Edward O. Wilson on insect societies plus many other essays, illustrations, cartoons, screenplays, poems, recipes, tales, and observations on insect life.

From Library Journal
The editors of this anthology, by their own admission, have gathered here an eclectic assortment of pieces about insects and how we humans have perceived them through the ages. Hoyt is a writer whose previous works include a book about ants, *The Earth Dwellers*; Schultz is an entomologist at the Smithsonian Institution. The selections for this volume come from Aristotle, Charles Darwin, William Wordsworth, the Bible, contemporary entomologists such as Edward O. Wilson, and dozens of other sources. The editors have arranged the material into ten chapters on themes dealing with insects both praised and reviled, insect societies, mating, metamorphosis, behavior, and more. The book is well suited for browsing, with many illustrations, relatively short entries, and a wide variety of topics and writing styles. Introductions precede each selection and add to the overall enjoyment of the book. *Insect Lives* simultaneously informs and entertains; recommended for popular natural history collections.
A William H. Wiese, Iowa State Univ. Lib., Ames Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.
From Scientific American "Alien creatures have overrun planet Earth. They wear their skeletons on the outside, bite sideways, smell with antennae, taste with their feet, and breathe through holes in the sides of their bodies. . . . They are the insects." From the human viewpoint, "insects are aliens, denizens of another world, shadow opposites with whom we share planet Earth." Starting from that perspective, Hoyt (a Scottish science writer) and Schultz (an entomologist at the Smithsonian Institution) had an inspiration: put together a book of writings on these intriguing and ubiquitous aliens, with an emphasis on good writing. The result is mighty good reading, abetted by many rewarding illustrations. The 76 entries include not only essays by scientists, as one would expect, but also poems by the likes of Burns and Wordsworth, passages from the Bible and even excerpts from the 1954 screenplay for *Them!*, one of the first insect movie thrillers. Taken altogether, the collection delivers what Hoyt and Schultz promise in their introduction-- "a sweeping tour of the human fascination with insects." Eric Hoyt and Ted Schultz share their magnificent obsession in *Insect Lives*. In a tour de force of popularization, they bring us the finest entomological writing of the past couple of millennia...An excellent, illuminating compendium whose breadth serves as praise both for the diversity and frequent weirdness of its subject and for the scholarship and dedication of its authors. (New Scientist)
Alien creatures have overrun planet Earth. They

wear skeletons on the outside, bite sideways, smell with antennae, taste with their feet, and breathe through holes in the sides of their bodies...They are the insects...Taken altogether, this collection delivers what Hoyt and Schultz promise in their introduction--'a sweeping tour of the human fascination with insects.' The result is mighty good reading. (Scientific American)Human perspectives on insects lurch between fear and fascination. This collection displays the full spectrum of views, in writings by Aristotle, Darwin, Wordsworth, Thoreau, and many more. Most of the authors excerpted here are bug enthusiasts, and they portray the marvels of the insect world with evident joy. (Science News)This book includes more than 70 selections from the best and most entertaining writing penned about insects. It captures the entire range of our preoccupation with insects, from timeless passages from the Bible, Aristotle and 19th-century naturalists to the lyrical appreciations of famed poets, novelists and essayists; from the groundbreaking discoveries of 20th-century scientists to the observations of cutting-edge thinkers such as techno-guru, Wired magazine founder and longtime beekeeper Kevin Kelley; from hilariously hyperbolic science fiction screenplays to classic cartoons. (Youngstown Vindicator 2002-12-08)