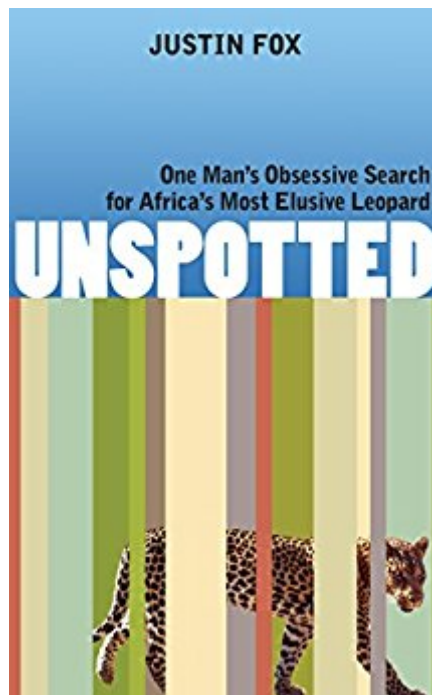




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Unspotted: One Man's Obsessive Search For Africa's Most Elusive Leopard



Synopsis

People have driven Cape Leopards to the brink of extinction. Can we bring them back? The majestic Cederberg mountains in the Western Cape region of South Africa are home to the elusive Cape Mountain Leopard. But for how long? The population has been decimated over centuries by human enemies and the survival of these glorious and mysterious cats is in jeopardy. Thanks to zoologist Quinton Martins and his Cape Leopard Trust, there may just be hope that the species will survive and continue to reign over its rocky habitat.

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Customer Reviews

For being a non-fiction book and about a subject that I know little about (wildlife conservation) this was a very entertaining and interesting read. The author uses clear and concise speech to address his audience and yet it doesn't feel overly formal or scientific. The way he feels about these majestic animals is clear from the very beginning and his excitement over sightings and the knowledge he

gains during his exploration bring life to the book, getting the reader excited as well. If you are curious about what it takes to learn about and make a difference to an entire species, this book will offer that insight. Overall, I thought this was very well written and would recommend it to others, even those who don't tend to read non-fiction. This review is based on a complimentary copy in exchange for an honest review. All opinions are my own.

I received a copy in exchange for an honest review. If I am to be perfectly honest this isn't the sort of story that I would usually pick up. Not because it is non-fiction, but because wildlife preservation isn't something that I am all that into. However, I thought that it sounded interesting and decided that I would give it a chance. I am glad I did. I really enjoyed the author's writing style; a few times I even laughed to myself. His descriptions kept you reading to see what his next amusing comment would be. And example of this: "... like a cross between a leopard and a daisy." Or perhaps this one, "The vehicle bounced over boulders like an inebriated frog." This read like a novel, flowing together well and doing a wonderful job of keeping one's attention. It was very informative about the Cape Mountain Leopard as well as the ecology of the place. What I particularly liked, however, was not just the entire story of the author's search for the Cape Mountain Leopard, but I was actually very interested in learning about life on the conservation as well as how the leopard traps and tracking devices worked. I like learning new things, and I certainly learned a lot from reading this. Perhaps I should now inform my friends about how one goes about trapping a leopard.... This 40 page story was very interesting, especially for one (me) who knew virtually nothing about wildlife preservation before taking it up. The writing and descriptions were fabulous; along with the story they kept you reading. I would definitely recommend this to anyone, particularly if you are interested in the preservation of wildlife or even if you are just interested in learning new things.

I've never read a nonfiction short story before (I'm not even sure what it would be called if my husband has suggested essay?) but I enjoyed it. In fact, I was disappointed it was over so quickly. I wanted even more details and a final resolution to the story. However, it's not the author's fault there wasn't a neat bow to wrap up on the research since it's an ongoing research project. I was definitely intrigued by the search for the leopards, and, having done some field work in my day, I appreciated the demonstration of difficulties that can arise while trying to collect data from living creatures. I really enjoyed Fox's writing. He was able to put you in the moment with his descriptions. For

example, "the vehicle bounced over boulders like an inebriated frog" (p. 9) or "[a] leopard could have been standing six feet away and I'd have dismissed it as retina malfunction" (p. 21). Like I said, my only complaint was I wanted more. If you like nonfiction and are willing to try something a little shorter than usual, I highly recommend this story.

I can't claim an affinity for the Cape Mountain Leopard, a breed native to South Africa that is close to extinction. In fact, I don't think I'd heard of it before reading this short work of non-fiction. However, I can relate to a good story, in this instance the author's attempt to actually see one of the elusive leopards with the help of Quinton Martins, a zoologist whose life and organization is dedicated to helping the breed survive. (I can also easily understand Fox and Martins' concerns by relating it to disappearing breeds closer to home.) Although a quick read, Fox manages to pack tastes of adventure along with enough background to understand the leopard's plight while inspiring this reader to consider man's relationship with the natural world. **Originally written for "Books and Pals" book blog. May have received a free review copy. **

This was a short (40 pages) but incredibly engaging story of the elusive Cape Leopard (which I'd never even heard of prior to reading this), and the man obsessed with them. Non-fiction, but as engaging and page turning as fiction, Fox takes readers along on the hunt for a spotting of this elusive animal, while providing backstory and information about the conservation, research, and education efforts that surround them. The writing is really what makes this--it could easily have been a boring academic paper, but it truly feels a bit like a mystery, or chase thriller in the way it's written. At 40 pages, it's a quick read, and an enjoyable one at that.

Fascinating adventure/travelogue tale about the search for cape leopards in South Africa. This is a great book for anyone who enjoys adventure or travel writing. The author joins a leopard expert - a man with a single minded obsession for saving these endangered animals - in a quest to see & study these animals. This is a shorter book (novella length?) but it works well for the story. I think this book would be a great one for middle/highschool readers as well. I received a review copy from the publisher in exchange for my honest opinion.

Interesting account of the search and work to save an endangered species. I spent a summer in Cape Town about 15 years ago and loved reading a totally different perspective to that beautiful

city. Well written and a nice piece to read in between longer things.

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