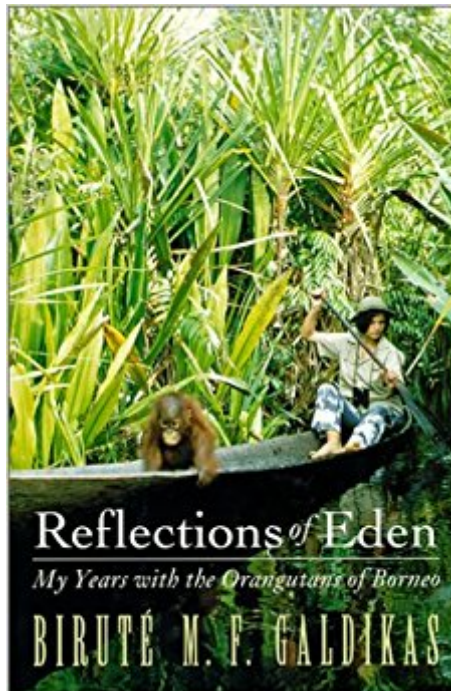




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# Reflections Of Eden: My Years With The Orangutans Of Borneo



## Synopsis

An anthropologist chronicles more than two decades of fieldwork in the endangered rainforest habitats of the orangutans, presenting strong arguments for conservationism and noting the striking similarities between animal and human social behavior. 50,000 first printing. Tour.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In 1971, 25-year-old Galdikas, a protege of Louis Leakey, went to Indonesian Borneo (Kalimantan), accompanied by her then-husband, to study orangutans at the Tanjung Puting Reserve (where she still spends time). It was a difficult assignment in a primitive area, with no roads or telephones and only infrequent mail delivery; travel was by boat or on foot. Furthermore, orangutans are solitary, elusive, arboreal creatures of the tropical forest. This would be the first extended study of their life in the wild. Galdikas presents an absorbing account of tracking the animals, observing mothers and infants, adolescent behavior and combat among males; the decline and death of one family anguished her. Galdikas battled with loggers to preserve habitats; she rescued young orangutans from poachers. This is a captivating story of adventure and conservation, and of a remarkable woman. Photos not seen by PW. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Until now, fans of primatologist Galdikas had to make do with brief accounts of her life and work in books such as Evelyn Gallardo's *Among the Orangutans* (Chronicle, 1993) and Sy Montgomery's *Walking with the Great Apes* (LJ 2/1/91). Galdikas, along with Jane Goodall and Dian Fossey, was

recruited by Louis Leaky to conduct long-term field studies of the great apes, in her case orangutans. While not as famous (or notorious) as her colleagues, Galdikas has been a phenomenal success in both her scientific studies and the conservation of orangutans. She also became immersed in Indonesian culture, marrying and raising children with a native Bornean. This book is a wonderful account of both her scientific work and personal experiences with a harsh environment, the loss of beloved orangutans, and the end of her first marriage to Canadian Rod Brindamour. Her humanity, courage, and dedication shine on every page. Highly recommended for all libraries, this book will inspire young scientists and enthrall anyone interested in orangutans and the rigors of modern field research.--Beth Clewis, Prince William P.L., Va. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Birute Galdikas is perhaps not as well known as Jane Goodall (who studied chimpanzees) or Dian Fossey (who studied gorillas) but she followed a similar path at the behest of Louis Leakey in studying orangutan so in Indonesia. Her book is perhaps the best of the books by the three. I have read most and recommend it for those interested in animal societies and their behavior.

I have read all three of the "The Trimates" books (Jane Goodall, Dian Fossey, Birute Galdikas)...they are ALL wonderful in different ways. We owe so much to these intelligent ladies who have dedicated their lives to these apes. They are ALL great informative/well written reads. Really shows you real field work and the entire process and life that happened during their studies...not 3 minutes snips from PBS, etc.

Galdikas provides an essential insight into the lives of orangutans before the current torrent of rainforest destruction. In this day of "Orangutan Island" and other necessary rescue efforts, it is helpful to learn the patterns of truly wild orangutan life before sanctuaries and rehabilitation. I found myself constantly highlighting and making notes in the margin of this book -- which I usually don't do. Galdikas also gives a passionate and honest narration of the early days of orangutan advocacy, which she helped spur. Like many Westerners, I find the appearance of apathy on the part of Indonesian government utterly appalling. More than any other book that I've read on the subject, she explains the Indonesian culture driving their governmental policies and (in)actions. This is a "must read" for anyone seriously interested in saving the orangutans. BUT you must follow it up with *A Dark Place in the Jungle: Following Leakey's Last Angel into Borneo*, a book by Linda Spalding that provides an insight into Galdikas. Spalding's book is essential to understanding why

orangutan advocacy today is splintered between groups who lack transparency and, arguably, effectiveness.

I am blessed to not only have read her book twice, but to have just recently met Dr. Gladikas in Borneo. What an incredible woman and how I love Orangutans, we must help her to save them and the rain forests from becoming extinct.

FABULOUS! Just wonderful. I thought the book would be more like a textbook but it was a reader-friendly and beautifully told story written by an AMAZING and selfless woman who has given her life to saving the incredible orangutan. Please read her story; you won't be sorry!

While working in Jakarta, Indonesia, a co-worker showed me this book and I was fascinated. I ordered it immediately from and loved it. Of course, my interest in orangutans may have influenced my decision. After reading the book, I was able to make a trip to Tanjung Puting/Borneo in September of 2008. Reading the book provided the knowledge to make the trip much more interesting. Reading about Birute Galdikas' accomplishments with these animals and her devotion to them is an amazing story.

thank you so much

Amazing read!!!

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