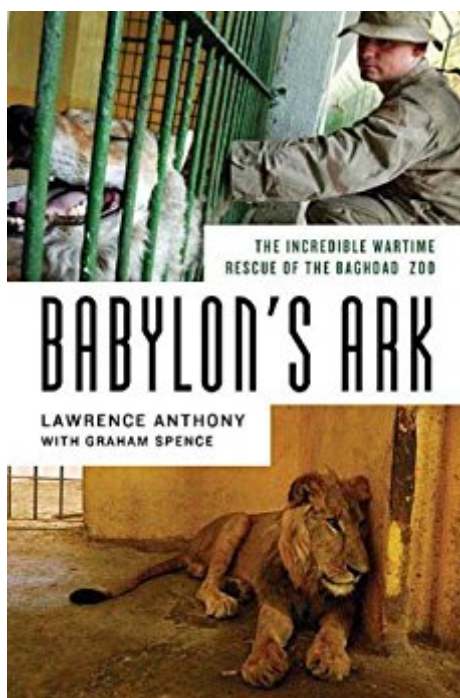


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# Babylon's Ark: The Incredible Wartime Rescue Of The Baghdad Zoo



## Synopsis

When the Iraq war began, conservationist Lawrence Anthony could think of only one thing: the fate of the Baghdad Zoo, located in the city center and caught in the war's crossfire. Once Anthony entered Baghdad he discovered that full-scale combat and uncontrolled looting had killed nearly all the animals of the zoo. But not all of them. U.S. soldiers had taken the time to help care for the remaining animals, and the zoo's staff had returned to work in spite of the constant firefights. Together the Americans and Iraqis had managed to keep alive the animals that had survived the invasion. *Babylon's Ark* chronicles the zoo's transformation from bombed-out rubble to peaceful park. Along the way, Anthony recounts hair-raising efforts to save a pride of the dictator's lions, close a deplorable black-market zoo, and rescue Saddam's Arabian horses. His unique ground-level experience makes *Babylon's Ark* an uplifting story of both sides working together for the sake of innocent animals caught in the war's crossfire.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

A well-written account of a usually unseen, unspoken aftermath of war - the devastation inflicted not

only on humans, but also animals abandoned during times of conflict. Heroism comes in many forms - e.g., the South African author who is determined to make a difference as well as the Iranian zoo staff who brave snipers and unspeakable conditions to help the zoo animals. Interspersed with the zoo story are historical facts/reminders of the social and political context before, during and after the war. I cannot praise the author enough for bringing this story to our attention and awareness.

Good book about a guy who shot up to Baghdad in the early days of the war to try to save the animals in the zoo. Good book, i give the man full respect and if you read this book and then donate to an animal charity, even better.

'Babylon's Ark...' is an adventure story from start until the end of the second last chapter. The adventure begins with Anthony's dangerous journey through war-torn Iraq to Baghdad, a scene of frenzy, factional fighting and constant threat. In company with two equally brave Kuwaitis, his intention is to save the zoo and its starving occupants. The situation is desperate...how is it possible to restore terrified, desperately ill, wounded animals to a semblance of trust and good health? Transporting wild, carnivorous animals is a near-impossible challenge. Yet they do all these things. The adventure ends with the return of the zoo to the Iraqi people. The author does not present himself as the only hero...so are the Iraqis who risk death every day to carry buckets of water for the zoo's thirst-ravaged occupants, to repair and scrub putrifying cages and to comb the city in search of whatever food they can scrounge. Black marketeers must be dealt with, armed looters confronted and facilities restored on virtually no money. Soldiers are equally heroic in finding food, even donating their own rations and precious time. More heroes emerge in the form of animal welfare organizations. I fully intended to give 'Babylon's Ark...' five stars and I'm sorry I decided not to...this is because of the final chapter. The adventure ends before this chapter starts. Lawrence's dissertation on his philosophy and intentions, interesting as it is, is not part of the story. If it were added as an epilogue the reader would have been allowed the discretion of reading the author's exposition...or not. Despite my problem concerning the last chapter, I FULLY RECOMMEND LAWRENCE ANTHONY'S REAL-LIFE STORY. Joan Emberg, Tasmania, Australia

This should be on every school's required reading list. We must educate the general public to the direness of our depleting planet all due to mankind's ignorance and quest for the almighty dollar!

I has been wanting to read this book for sometime. Mr Anthony had a vision for wildlife and

conservation that he was personally prepared to fight for. Babylon's Ark reflects his courage to do what he believes is right. The story reflects the lunacy and danger of the mission that he undertook, initially alone, as a non Arab. It is exciting, hopeful and sad in so many ways. Great book

This book provides a view of the early days of the occupation of Baghdad through the eyes of a South African wild life refuge manager who felt called to come and save the surviving animals of the Baghdad Zoo. It includes the private menageries of Saddam's unsavory sons, and the animals they rescued from those wild creatures housed in the suburban areas where they had their homes and 'pets'. Lawrence Anthony and his motley crew deal with looters, the US Army, and the starving remains of the zoo. Some of the resulting scenes are hilarious! Such as the time they were moving Uday's animals from his private estate to the Zoo. The cheetah's, and other such animals had been loaded onto trucks for the few mile trip. But the ostriches didn't fit on the truck. He decided to have the keepers walk them to their new home. So far, so good! But the huge birds had been confined for so long that the sight of all that distance- they took off running as ostriches love to do!! Now picture the US Army sentries who have been dealing with IEDs and car bombs who suddenly see huge birds galloping their way, each with keepers hanging on for dear life!! By necessity they have had to be quick on the trigger, and they think they have seen it all- but sprinting ostriches??!! With people hanging onto them??!! No, they didn't shoot, but how were they supposed to record that into their Day's Log Book??

Great book. It was especially interesting to me because of the telling of what was going on in Iraq during the time period that Lawrence was over there as this was close to the same time as my son was in the Army there.

Very interesting story and written nicely. I really enjoyed reading something about the Iraq war that wasn't about troops losing their lives. It truly showed some different aspects of the war that no one knew of. I even had to Google some of the references because I hadn't known that while the Iraq zoo was troubled so was the Kuwait zoo as well. Heart wrenching at times and visually hard to read but it keeps you interested because you want to know what happens... Do the animals make it..

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