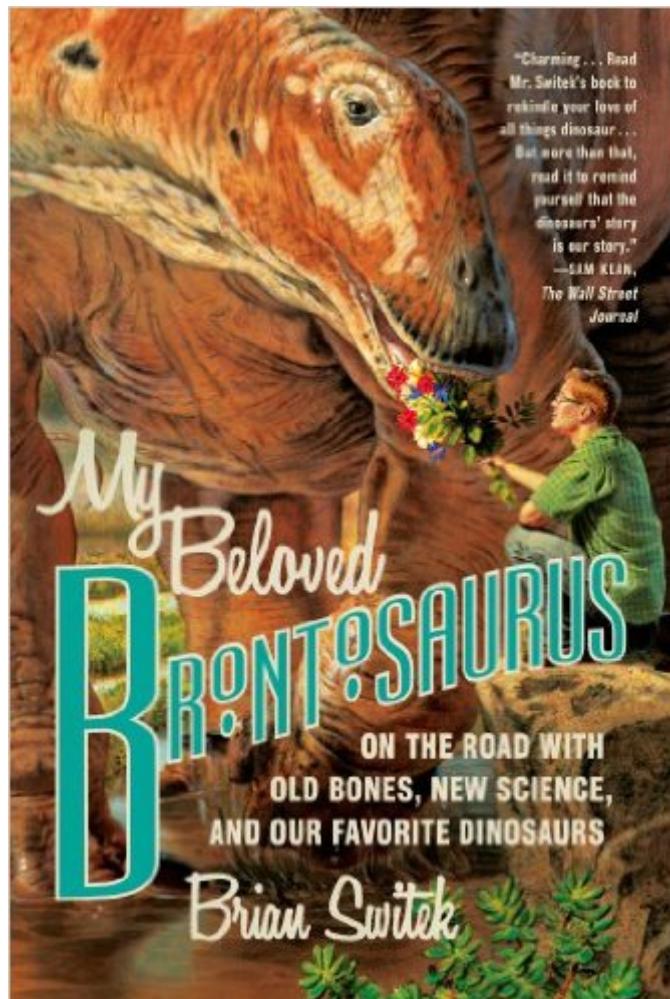


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My Beloved Brontosaurus: On The Road With Old Bones, New Science, And Our Favorite Dinosaurs



Synopsis

One of 's Best Science Books of 2013A Hudson Booksellers Staff Pick for the Best Books of 2013One of Publishers Weekly's Top Ten Spring Science BooksSelected by Apple's iBookstore as one of the best books of AprilA Bookshop Santa Cruz Staff PickDinosaurs, with their awe-inspiring size, terrifying claws and teeth, and otherworldly abilities, occupy a sacred place in our childhoods. They loom over museum halls, thunder through movies, and are a fundamental part of our collective imagination. In *My Beloved Brontosaurus*, the dinosaur fanatic Brian Switek enriches the childlike sense of wonder these amazing creatures instill in us. Investigating the latest discoveries in paleontology, he breathes new life into old bones. Switek reunites us with these mysterious creatures as he visits desolate excavation sites and hallowed museum vaults, exploring everything from the sex life of Apatosaurus and T. rex's feather-laden body to just why dinosaurs vanished. (And of course, on his journey, he celebrates the book's titular hero, "Brontosaurus"•who suffered a second extinction when we learned he never existed at all•as a symbol of scientific progress.) With infectious enthusiasm, Switek questions what we've long held to be true about these beasts, weaving in stories from his obsession with dinosaurs, which started when he was just knee-high to a Stegosaurus. Endearing, surprising, and essential to our understanding of our own evolution and our place on Earth, *My Beloved Brontosaurus* is a book that dinosaur fans and anyone interested in scientific progress will cherish for years to come.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The cover design and publisher hype about this book might make you mistakenly think that this is a

kid's book, which is tragic because 1. It's not and 2. It might keep you from buying one of the best science books written this year, bar none-- for YOURSELF!! "kid" you not-- if you want a break from your favorite mystery novel series for a plane ride or night reading, THIS IS IT! The author is a young genius at pulling our heart and head strings and leading us along with... what will happen next? The book is as engaging as a novel, but filled with research, science, documentation, citations, etc. as if it were researched as a scholarly text, then written for fun, love and enjoyment. An amazing blend. If you're a fan of "popular science books" you'll be surprised that even though the read is fast, engaging and fun, the author doesn't dumb down the material at all-- there is plenty of deep paleontology snuck in, and you get a sense not only of his love for these critters, but his respect and determination to understand them scientifically. Our struggles to survive as humans, our coping with tragedy, and our many talents, are subtly reflected in every page as we watch creatures who, like Scott's "aliens," should be immune to extinction, then cope with situations nothing can handle. With Jurassic Park type genetic biologists telling us that we may indeed be able to bring these creatures back some day (assuming WE make it), without being preachy, the author gives us a lesson in how we should view our more fragile fellow inhabitants here. If you've ever seen ANY episode of the discovery channel that you enjoyed, you won't be able to put this book down, even if you're not a dinophile. If you are... what are you waiting for, go for it!

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