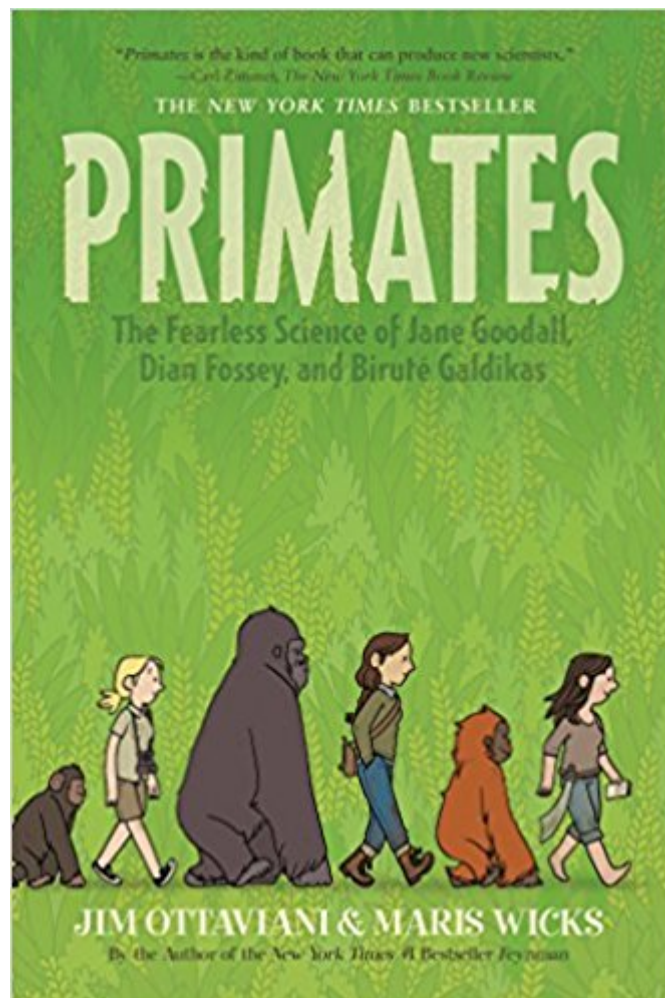




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# Primates: The Fearless Science Of Jane Goodall, Dian Fossey, And Birutė Galdikas



## Synopsis

Jim Ottaviani returns with an action-packed account of the three greatest primatologists of the last century: Jane Goodall, Dian Fossey, and Birutė Galdikas. These three ground-breaking researchers were all students of the great Louis Leakey, and each made profound contributions to primatology and to our own understanding of ourselves. Tackling Goodall, Fossey, and Galdikas in turn, and covering the highlights of their respective careers, *Primates* is an accessible, entertaining, and informative look at the field of primatology and at the lives of three of the most remarkable women scientists of the twentieth century. Thanks to the charming and inviting illustrations by Maris Wicks, this is a nonfiction graphic novel with broad appeal.

## Book Information

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Age Range: 12 - 18 years

Grade Level: 7 - 12

## Customer Reviews

Ottaviani's latest, after *Feynman* (2011), manages to compress the fascinating stories of three groundbreaking scientists—Jane Goodall, Dian Fossey, and Birutė Galdikas—into a slim volume without skimping on their rich characters and joyful discoveries. Thanks to Wicks' colorful, lively, Hergé-like art, each scientist (and primate) has a distinct personality, but it's the depictions of the animals—emerging from lush, leafy backgrounds or lolling in trees—that steal the show. A chimp mugs to the viewer with a boastful, precocious grin, for instance, after Goodall observes it using a tool to forage for food. For all the playful mugging and gratifying discoveries, though, Ottaviani doesn't shy away from the struggles of living and working in the bush. Presented as

dedicated, iconoclastic, and profoundly in awe of the creatures around them, Goodall, Fossey, and Galdikas are inspiring figures, and Ottaviani does a first-rate job of dangling enough tantalizing tidbits to pique readers'™ interest in the topic. The actual science is a bit light, but an author's™ note strongly encourages further reading and includes resources. Grades 9-12. --Sarah Hunter  
--This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

• An accessible introduction to Goodall's, Fossey's and Galdikas' lives and work. • Kirkus Reviews • A graphic format admirably propels this lightly fictionalized group biography. • The Horn Book • Presented as dedicated, iconoclastic, and profoundly in awe of the creatures around them, Goodall, Fossey, and Galdikas are inspiring figures, and Ottaviani does a first-rate job of dangling enough tantalizing tidbits to pique readers' interest in the topic. • Booklist • The story of how each of these women loved primates and lived among them to study their behavior is compelling, and might inspire a whole new generation of scientists to follow in their footsteps. • School Library Journal • This is an inviting introduction that will undoubtedly lure many readers into further investigation of this groundbreaking fieldwork. • BCCB • [Ottaviani and Wicks] succeed in conjuring the feel of extraordinary science. And they do so not by manufacturing fake emotion, but by sticking to the reality of being a scientist--the hard punishments of fieldwork, the strains on marriage, the cocktail-party diplomacy back home and, most important of all, the elation of discovery. Especially in its portrayal of this final element, Primates is the kind of book that can produce new scientists. • Carl Zimmer, The New York Times Book Review • Ottaviani succeeds in capturing their hard work and the thrilling breakthroughs during years of research, without looking away from some of the darker details, such as Leakey's womanizing. Wicks's cartoony illustrations are a great match for the story; they never get bogged down with unnecessary details and briskly move forward the account of the women and their subjects. A riveting, jargon-free overview of one of the great stories of animal research. • Publishers Weekly • Readers are given a first-person glimpse into Jane's passion for chimps, Dian's determination to protect the world's gorillas, and Birute's enthusiasm for orangutans. The art is simplistic, yet powerful, with interesting details about the scientists' introductions to life with and the study of primates. . . . Primates is an intriguing introduction to three female scientists who changed the way the world defined 'human.' • VOYA

The surprising and groundbreaking stories of the three greatest primatologists:

Goodall/chimpanzees, Fossey/gorillas and Galdikas/orangutans, is told in graphic novel form. The

author/illustrator team based their work on extensive study of the scientists' lives and work but fictionalized some dialogue and compressed events producing a vivid story that conveys the spirit of the women, the tenor of their times, the difficulty of their living conditions and the quality of their discoveries. Wicks' clean, engaging, Herge-like drawings bring humor and clarity: illuminating the character of the individuals, their study subjects and their intertwined relationships. Sequenced panels adeptly convey the ape behavior the women observed and comically represent their less than decorous reactions. The book entertains but does not pander: Leakey's womanizing is alluded to, marriages fail and readers must use observational skills to get the most from the story. Fossey's death is referred to, but her murder is not mentioned. Lively and humorous yet respectful, *Primates* piques interest in three inspiring lives but does not attempt to answer all questions or convey the full scope of the women's discoveries. An Afterword and Bibliography point the way to more information.

Astonishing that so many people used so many words to describe this book. If you didn't grow up in the period it describes, I suppose you might find it puzzling (one reviewer certainly did), but for those of us who saw these events and followed the work of these women as it happened, all that pedantry is beside the point. Buy it, read it, and hand it on to your kids. If it makes one in a hundred thousand want to "do science" (as the phrase goes these days) this way, it's served all of us primates well.

Originally ordered to be a book for "summer reading", I enjoyed this book but was a bit disappointed about how it glossed over some of the controversial and hard topics that these women had to face while doing research on chimps, gorillas, and orangutans. While the book is intended for younger and less-developed readers, it would have been nice if it alluded to those issues or had suggestions for further reading about each of these very important researchers.

This is a wonderful book that takes the reader into the world of these larger than life primatologists that have changed how we view the great apes. The drawings add to the stories, bringing forth the world and challenges of studying chimps, gorillas and orangutans. This is a book I will read and reread again and again. Anyone who is a fan of Jane Goodall, Dian Fossey and Birute Gallikas will enjoy this journey into the world of the great apes. This is also a creative graphic novel, a form of reading that may appeal to younger people and encourage them to enter the field of primatology.

The lives of Louis Leakey's three angels are woven together into a beautiful web that illustrates the

relationships between the people and their work. A recommended read for anyone who has ever wondered what it might be like to explore the world and its creatures.

Wonderful book which I hope will inspire young women to become primatologists and explorers.

These three women deserve several books to sing their praises. I did not know until reading this that they were all the students of Richard Leakey. Students will learn all about the lives of these women and as a graphic non-fiction, will be suitably entertained. I also think this will inspire students to do further reading about Fossey, Galdikas, and Goodall.

A very cute and simple account of 3 women's science stories. I am a science teacher, and keep it in my room for students to read when they have extra time.

Highly recommended for youth who are just starting chapter books. The story is especially inspirational for girls- a must have for your library!! (Also fun to read as a parent)

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