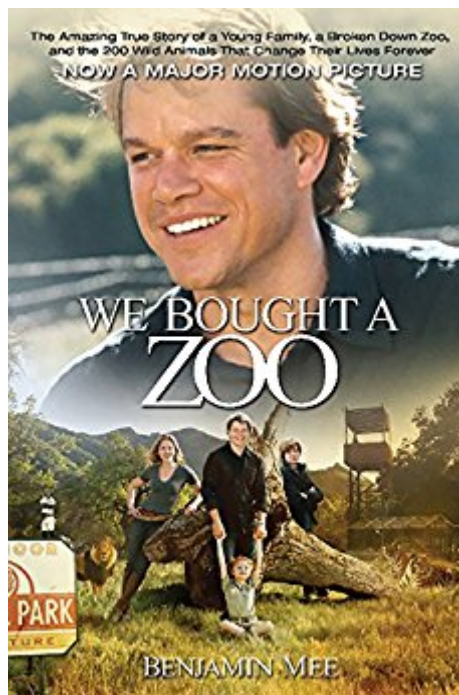


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We Bought A Zoo: The Amazing True Story Of A Young Family, A Broken Down Zoo, And The 200 Wild Animals That Changed T



Synopsis

The remarkable true story of a family who move into a rundown zoo-already a BBC documentary miniseries and excerpted in The Guardian. In the market for a house and an adventure, Benjamin Mee moved his family to an unlikely new home: a dilapidated zoo in the English countryside. Mee had a dream to refurbish the zoo and run it as a family business. His friends and colleagues thought he was crazy. But in 2006, Mee and his wife with their two children, his brother, and his 76-year-old mother moved into the Dartmoor Wildlife Park. Their extended family now included: Solomon, an African lion and scourge of the local golf course; Zak, the rickety Alpha wolf, a broadly benevolent dictator clinging to power; Ronnie, a Brazilian tapir, easily capable of killing a man, but hopelessly sappy; and Sovereign, a jaguar and would-be ninja, who has devised a long term escape plan and implemented it. Nothing was easy, given the family's lack of experience as zookeepers, and what follows is a magical exploration of the mysteries of the animal kingdom, the power of family, and the triumph of hope over tragedy. *We Bought a Zoo* is a profoundly moving portrait of an unforgettable family living in the most extraordinary circumstances.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I enjoyed this detailed account of one man's family's acquisition of a failing zoo. It is considerably different from the movie: the family doesn't stumble upon the zoo (it's planned); it takes place in the UK, not the US, and there's no big romance. Also, the kids of the family have a far lesser role in the book than the movie. That being said, it's still a good read. Detailed are the specific struggles financially and with government authorities to make the zoo a viable working operation. Also, we see countless examples of Benjamin Mee learning the animal/zoo business through actual trials he and the zoo had to face. Moreover, he relays to the reader the human element of his wife's illness and the variety of characters who comprised the zoo personnel. Enjoy it.

Loved the movie! Loved the book! Truly inspiring book about the real story of a family dealing with tragedy and overcoming to find joy again.

I've always loved inspiring true stories. If you're looking for an inspiring, but also gripping and educational story, "We Bought a Zoo" is the story for you. It is inspiring because it helps you see the bright side of the things; it is gripping because you want to find out how Benjamin will finally overcome all the difficulties, the harshest being his wife's death; it is educational as it hints at a few controversial topics about zoos. But above all, Benjamin gives a huge example of respect and consistency to his family and collaborators, and to readers.

3-1/2 stars: I jumped between reading this on kindle and listening to the audiobook. The reader was really good on the audiobook. The story was interesting with lots of funny anecdotes about getting a zoo ready for business. There were some slow parts with details I could have done without (for example, the in-depth description of the various dental work done on several animals), but most of the detailed anecdotes I found quite interesting. There were some very sad parts dealing with the illness of Benjamin's wife Katherine. Overall, it was an enjoyable read and I am looking forward to watching the movie they made based on it.

I thought the book was dull and boring. I usually like the book better than the movie. I was disappointed in the book. The characters were not developed. You learned nothing about any of them.

If you're looking to read this book based on the movie, you could be disappointed. Now, I 'Liked' the story because it was an entertaining read and the characters, and there are quite a few, makes the story more complete. It has the chapters that will make you laugh, perhaps cry, and certainly make you wonder how they did it.

Excellent story of what sounds like a dream for most but totally real for the ones that live it. The book will consume you whole it lasts

I found this story touching yet very vivid in the writing as each animal became a challenge or a friend, the barn and the places made and remade for the animals, his constant love and caring for his wife as she slowly died, it showed that if your dream is big enough you can achieve anything with peace, love and sharing. M from MI.

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