

A Passion for Elephants

Cynthia Moss

Reviewed by: Kaden Shover, 17

Star Book Reviewer of Be the Star You Are Charity

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A passion for Elephants is a book written by Cynthia Moss who at the young age of 7 discovered her love for big animals. Raised in Ossining, New York Cynthia had a love for all things in nature. When Cynthia graduated from college she had no idea where her life would take her. She started out writing for a magazine as a reporter and researcher. After receiving a letter from her good friend in Africa she was inspired to visit. She fell in love with Africa and decided to spend her life there she loved it so much. Needing a job she took a job as a photographer with a zoologist studying elephants. Cynthia, learned through her photographs how elephants live in families, help each other to survive, cooperate and depend on each other, things as Cynthia stated "humans should learn to do." Cynthia decided to devote her life to the elephants and started the Amboseli Elephant Research project. Sadly, elephant poaching for their ivory depleted the population severely, and within ten years half of them were killed. Thankfully in 1990 a global ban was passed on the sale of ivory. Cynthia had the distinct honor and privilege of studying over 2500 elephants over a 40 year period.

The parts I liked the best about this book was that it was a real life experience of the author. Cynthia found her passion and love for these enormous creature and found her life's work. I really liked her description of how she discovered the individuality of each different elephant and was able to tell them apart. Also she was able to further distinguish them by naming all the family members with the same first letter of the alphabet. Finally. I really respected that she spoke out about the illegal ivory trade and poaching worldwide.

Although this book is written and suggested for young readers ages 5-10, I also think preteens interested in working or advocating for animals would find this book interesting. You can obtain this book from the library, Amazon, and on kindle.

I would suggest the following books to readers if they liked this book:

Furs, Fins and Feathers by Abraham Dee Bartlett

Invention of the Modern Zoo by Cassandre Maxwell

Faithful Elephants: A True Story of Animals, People, and War by Yukio Tsuchiya

