



Marc Bekoff Ph.D.

Animal Emotions

"Whispers From the Wild" Asks Us to Imagine the Unimaginable

Amelia Kinkade's new book and interview challenge us to cherish other animals

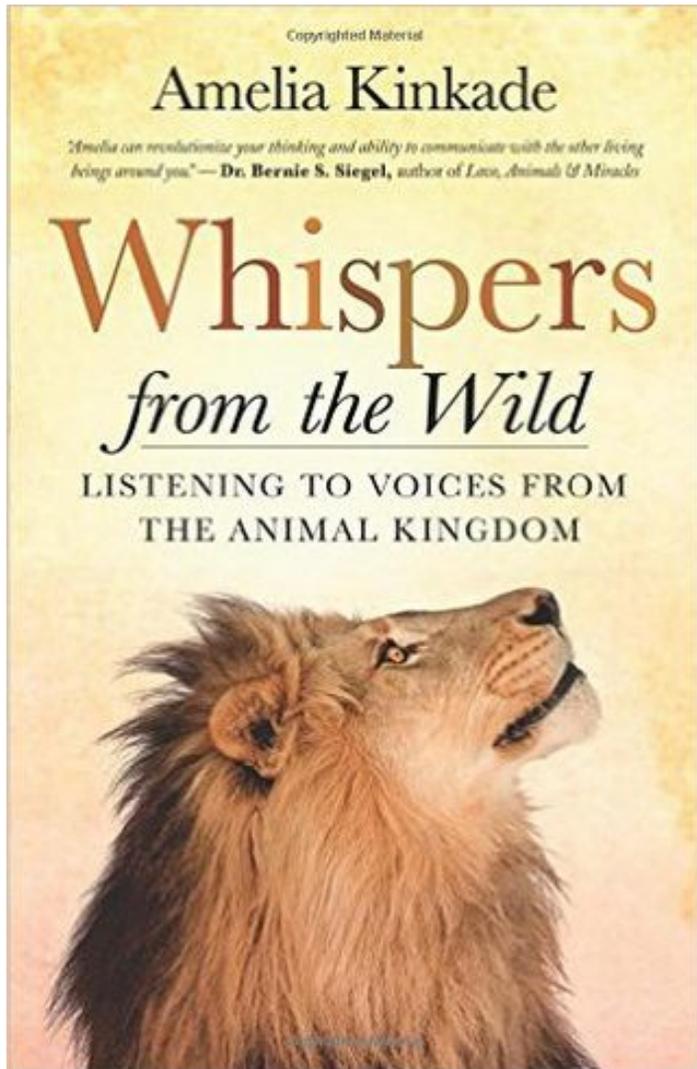
Posted Oct 13, 2016

How humans and other animals can survive "the rage (<https://www.psychologytoday.com/basics/anger>) of inhumanity": Think the unthinkable and imagine the unimaginable

A new book by renowned animal communicator Amelia Kinkade (https://www.amazon.com/s/ref=dp_byline_sr_book_1?ie=UTF8&text=Amelia+Kinkade&search-alias=books&field-author=Amelia+Kinkade&sort=relevancerank) called *Whispers from the Wild: Listening to Voices from the Animal Kingdom* (https://www.amazon.com/Whispers-Wild-Listening-Voices-Kingdom/dp/1608683966/ref=sr_tnr_p_1_13509_1_twi_pap_2?ie=UTF8&qid=1476366090&sr=8-1&keywords=Whispers+from+the+Wild%3A+Listening+to+Voices+from+the+Animal+Kingdom) crossed my desk a few months ago, and now it has been published. What a wonderful event. The book's description reads:

One of the world's most renowned animal communicators, Amelia Kinkade has brought thousands into closer contact with their beloved dogs, cats, birds, and horses. Now she shares the wonders of her recent work communicating with wild, and in some cases endangered, animals. Amelia takes readers on a rollicking ride as she visits with tigers, elephants, lions, great white sharks, black mamba snakes, whales, and bees. Traveling all over the world, Amelia reveals the inner thoughts and feelings of these extraordinary animals and shares the advice she has gleaned — words about tenderness, reconnection

with [nature \(https://www.psychologytoday.com/basics/environment\)](https://www.psychologytoday.com/basics/environment), life after death, and the possibilities of magical awakenings inside the brains of an ever-evolving human [race \(https://www.psychologytoday.com/basics/race-and-ethnicity\)](https://www.psychologytoday.com/basics/race-and-ethnicity). Anyone with a heart, mind, and funny bone will delight in this invitation to understand and appreciate our fellow inhabitants of planet Earth.



Source: With permission

Whispers from the Wild made me deeply ponder the complex and variegated nature of human-animal relationships, a topic about which I think every single day. It's a challenging read that I note in my endorsement below because it asks us to dig deep and to expand our horizons about how we interact with nonhuman animals (animals). This is good and most necessary because it made me rethink about who we are and who "they" (other animals) are, and what we can and must do in an increasingly human-dominated world to be sure that we all survive the Anthropocene. This epoch is often called "the age of humanity," but in reality it is "the rage of inhumanity." My endorsement reads:

In *Whispers from the Wild*, renowned animal communicator Amelia Kinkade poignantly reminds us that we truly are immersed in a fascinating and mysterious world of nonhuman animals from whose voices, physical presence, and scents we cannot escape, nor should we. She also reminds us that there still is much to learn about just whom these amazing beings are,

and that it's essential to think the unthinkable and imagine the unimaginable when we interact with other animals in myriad ways. We are living in an epoch that I call "the rage of inhumanity," and other animals need our goodwill and compassion as never before. In writing about the emotional lives of animals -- their wide-ranging passions, their ups and downs, their points of view -- Ms. Kinkade provides us with just what we need to deeply and personally reconnect with them -- to rewild our hearts -- because not only do they need us, but we also need them to thrive and to truly experience our own humanity in an increasingly

human-dominated world. Whispers from the Wild made me deeply rethink about ways in which we could truly honor the presence and essence of nonhuman animal beings while at the same time saving ourselves from the devastating effects of becoming alienated from nature and from ourselves.

I was able to interview the globetrotting Ms. Kinkade and here is what came my way. Her openness and honesty are most welcomed.

Why did you write *Whispers From the Wild*?

Well, Marc, it was actually you who called my first book, *Straight from the Horse's Mouth: How to Talk to*

Animals and Get Answers ([https://www.amazon.com/Straight-Horses-Mouth-Animals-Answers/dp/1577315065/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1476366778&sr=8-](https://www.amazon.com/Straight-Horses-Mouth-Animals-Answers/dp/1577315065/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1476366778&sr=8-1&keywords=amelia+kinkade+horses)

[1&keywords=amelia+kinkade+horses](https://www.amazon.com/Straight-Horses-Mouth-Animals-Answers/dp/1577315065/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1476366778&sr=8-1&keywords=amelia+kinkade+horses)) a “call to arms.” Even I didn’t see it as that at the time. But after 15 grueling years of consecutive world tour, now because of that little book, after living out of a battered suitcase in over 30 countries, and lecturing my heart out about how to connect with and rescue animals, I think you were right. At the time that book was published in 2001, I thought I’d given the world my soul on a silver platter. It was as raw and authentic as I could deliver at the time. Then the rhinos became extinct in Africa. The clock was ticking. Now God’s masterpiece, the tiger, is about to be extinct all over the world. I failed. I have failed them. I realized that what I was doing was not enough.

What are some of your main messages?

I would never tell anyone this, Marc. But because it is for your fans, I think I can take off the kid gloves. I’ve lectured in South Africa for 12 consecutive years, and every year some rich housewife in Cape Town stands up and whines with great distress, “What are we going to do about our rhino?” I’d always soft

pedaled my answers and tailored the solution toward every individual doing what we can do, no matter how small. But right before I started writing *Whispers From the Wild*, something inside me snapped. Maybe I'm in menopause (<https://www.psychologytoday.com/basics/menopause>). Suddenly I couldn't not tell the truth anymore.

So I screamed at this woman, "Notning! You're going to do nothing! Because that's what you did do. You let them become extinct!!! And now you think some American woman is going to fly to your country and fix it for you after it's too late?"

With only the smallest tad of regret, I admit maybe I was a bit hasty. But in the same vein, minister that I am, after 15 years of touring the world to pray for the animals, bestow blessings on the animals, lead meditations focusing on unconditional love (<https://www.psychologytoday.com/basics/relationships>) and praying that that 2 percent of us praying for the rest of the world will create some quantum shift and chemical reaction that will be enough to save the planet without any of us exerting any effort much less taking drastic actions. Well, that sense of entitlement makes me act a like a wild maniac.

I had a similar epiphany (or Tourette's (<https://www.psychologytoday.com/conditions/tourettes-syndrome>) moment) on the stage at a conference in America where I was lecturing, and I yelled, "All you 'spiritual (<https://www.psychologytoday.com/basics/spirituality>)' people are going to stay home and PRAY for the animals? You're going to sit on the couch, meditate (<https://www.psychologytoday.com/basics/meditation>), and 'send out White Light?!!!' You do that! But I'm going to fly to Africa, stand between the elephant and the poacher and yell, "Shoot me #^&%^\$*##&!"

To my shock, this outpouring of outrage got the biggest round of thunderous applause I've ever received. Suddenly I realized that when I'm furious, raw, protective, and authentic, I appeal to the part of my

readers that is furious, raw, protective, and authentic; and everyone truly does want to find a way to protect the most gorgeous glorious endangered species on this planet—but no one knows what to do.

Whispers From the Wild is my attempt to guide people in ways to show them what they can do. Even the rich housewives in Cape Town don't want to see the rhino leave this earth. So this book is my roaring call to arms, to convince people that we can defend the animals on this planet—our animals on our planet—and we don't have to lay down our swords, cowering under the dark forces of corruption, financial gain, emotional intimidation, and ignorance.

How does it differ from your previous books?

Get in touch with your wild spirit

Every chapter features a different wild animal, tells of outrageous stories set to ignite the spirit of God within my readers so that they can better communicate with and protect God's animals. *Whispers From the Wild* is the funniest, most revealing naughty wild ride I've ever taken my readers on—complete with stories about my famous television star Aunt, Rue McClanahan, and how “Tiger Magic” pulled her out of a coma and restored her body from paralysis, but also my own infamous past as a horror movie queen, a scandalous series of movies I've never talked about in print, but one in which I also shape-shifted into an animal (quite literally, 27 hours in special effect make-up as a giant snake.) This book is designed to push the reader's limits—to challenge stereotypes (<https://www.psychologytoday.com/basics/bias>) about “dangerous” animals because some of my most beloved encounters have taken place with ferocious wild tigers, misunderstood lions, murderous great white sharks, and even unimaginably deadly black mamba snakes.

My message is that we can see the [beauty \(https://www.psychologytoday.com/basics/beauty\)](https://www.psychologytoday.com/basics/beauty) in all living creatures and not scorn the ones we black-list because we see them as “dangerous” when it is we—man—who are the most dangerous of all. I’m asking the humans to get in touch with their wild spirits—the part of each person that wants to know its true nature—joyous, spiritual, connected to the earth and her animals, and to feel not just worthy, but even excited to live on a planet alongside such magnificent beings. But I’m offering practical ways to HELP—to offer each and every person some power and dignity so that they tap into the part of themselves that can impact the world around them. This book is a call to fight back when this planet and her sacred animals have been tragically tortured and taken from us. *Whispers* is about winning.

There’s a rebel in me that hears and feels the overwhelming sense of helplessness the animal lovers of this world are buckling under right now and this rebel feels the need to try anything and everything to draw us all back to God and Nature, the Source of our Salvation—because God and Nature are one. And this is the message Ark Angel Ministries brings. I’m not here to gloss things over, to lie and be polite. The wild animals are out of time and it’s too late to sit back and send out “White Light” praying someone else does all the work for us. I want to see tigers saved, tiger trading abolished, Ivory banned, Sharks and Whales protected, canned lion hunting outlawed, bees restored to their splendor, and I want to see these things happen in my lifetime. This is my commitment to God—that I will see these changes made in the name of all that is sacred, or I will die trying. The book offers practical solutions about how each and every person can help.

Do you have hope for the future?

Back to the rhino and the tigers and even to standing in front of the poacher and yelling, “Shoot me, #^&%^\$*##&!!!” I don’t yell that, but I’ve found a solution which I hope will actually work. My prophesy is that our only hope for the future is to educate the children who will inherit this planet, and change their consciousness while they are still curious and their instincts are in tact. As my mentor, Captain Edgar Mitchell, Apollo Astronaut once said, “Consciousness raising is the only game in town.” I stand before those who will become the future poachers if we don’t reach them now, and in the most rural parts of Africa, my charity Ark Angel, goes into churches, schools, and orphanages, where we dance as elephants, draw elephants, and make up theater about elephants and poaching so that these kids don’t grow up to be poachers. I just did it again in the Kruger last year for the lions and also Rwanda for the gorilla.

But my ultimate goal in this lifetime is to infiltrate China to teach Chinese children that “tiger medicine” doesn’t work when you kill them, and that rhino horn has no medicinal value, but also to raise consciousness so that every dog, every little house-cat, and every horse is viewed for what it really is—a

thinking, feeling, magnificent representation of our Creator's beauty and intelligence (<https://www.psychologytoday.com/basics/intelligence>).

The greatest compliments in my life have come when I receive emails from Korean children in broken English to tell me that they have chosen to no longer eat cats and dogs because they have read my books. The next step will be to visit these children in Korea, speak to them, get to know and love them, and teach them that animals have thoughts and feelings and a point of view, just like them.

But to bust down the walls that keep these messages from getting to China—these messages of hope, compassion, personal empowerment and rights for animals—are walls that I will tackle with this book, in person, in front of a multitude of Chinese children and fans. And if I can stop the decimation of tigers and save the remaining rhino on this planet, it will be because of you, Marc. Because you were the first to break through that invisible wall. With the legacy you've left me, all I have to do is walk through the door...gather forces, and never back down.

The need to rewild our hearts and to do something for other animals

Thank you Amelia. So much of what you write I also covered in my book *Rewilding Our Hearts: Building Pathways of Compassion and Coexistence* (https://www.amazon.com/Rewilding-Our-Hearts-Compassion-Coexistence/dp/1577319540/ref=sr_1_1_twi_pap_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1476372715&sr=8-1&keywords=bekoff+rewilding). I deeply appreciate your frankness and I hope your book enjoys a broad global audience. It surely will force people to think the unthinkable and to imagine the unimaginable, and that is good for them and good for us. We suffer the indignities to which we subject other animals, and we also experience the joy when we help them to live in peace and safety, absent harm from the most invasive animal who goes here, there, and everywhere whenever it suits us.

Note: Right after I posted this a renowned scientist and another person asked me what I thought of "this stuff." As I wrote above, Ms. Kinkade asks us to think the unthinkable and imagine the unimaginable, And, why not do this? Just look what we're learning about fishes and other animals who supposedly were "stupid" or thought to be non-sentient. And, let's not forget there are scientists who still accept that rats and mice are not animals (please see "[The Animal Welfare Act Claims Rats and Mice Are Not Animals](https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/animal-emotions/201609/the-animal-welfare-act-claims-rats-and-mice-are-not-animals)" (<https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/animal-emotions/201609/the-animal-welfare-act-claims-rats-and-mice-are-not-animals>)). At least they haven't come out to protest this long-standing and self-serving inanity that goes against everything we know about these deeply emotional sentient beings. So, I don't see why anything is lost by keeping heads and hearts open to the unthinkable and to the unimaginable.
