



Wildlife Book Club: The Great Penguin Rescue By Dyan deNapoli

Wednesday, December 2, 2015



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

12 minutes to go! Wondering if the Penguin Lady is here yet?



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

I'm ready!

Comment From Carrie/Izzy

Amanda you look lovely as a penguin I sure hope Maggie doesn't get too jealous ;)

Comment From Dyan deNapoli - The Penguin Lady

Hi there! Just arriving, and happy to be here!



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

Hi, Dyan!!



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

Welcome Dyan! We are excited to have you here!

Comment From BarbG

Welcome Dyan

Comment From Georgianne

Hi Dyan!

Comment From Lacy

Welcome, Dyan! So happy you're here with us :)

Comment From Carrie/Izzy

Oh my goodness!!! I can't believe it she's really here the amazingly talented author! I am so very excited!!

Comment From Dyan deNapoli - The Penguin Lady

I'm excited to be here with all of you! And a big thanks to the Virginia Wildlife Center for choosing to read The Great Penguin Rescue this month!

Comment From Dyan deNapoli - The Penguin Lady

Oh, Carrie/Izzy - that is so sweet of you!

**Amanda Nicholson, WCV:**

We'll just wait another couple minutes for people to gather ... and then we'll kick off with a video!

Comment From Marianne in NC

Marianne checking in. Glad this is a type-chat discussion, because I'm still getting over a cold with laryngitis.

Comment From Brenda from Virginia

It's wonderful to have you here, Dyan! Your book is awesome!

Comment From CK in Pa

Hi Amanda, Chapin, Dyan & CN! Glad I am here for this book club.

Comment From Dyan deNapoli - The Penguin Lady

Thank you so much, Brenda!!

Comment From CarolinaGirl

I'm here!!

**Amanda Nicholson, WCV:**

Welcome to book club, everyone!

**Amanda Nicholson, WCV:**

Tonight we are discussing "The Great Penguin Rescue" by Dyan deNapoli. And, we have her here with us!

Comment From Barb B in NJ

Welcome Dyan! Im suddenly feeling a little star struck!

Comment From CarolinaGirl

You are here Dyan!

Comment From Marianne in NC

Would you autograph my book . . . oops, guess not.

Comment From Mary E in NC

It's great to have the Penguin Lady here - I thoroughly enjoyed your wonderful book!

Comment From Dyan deNapoli - The Penguin Lady

Well, ya'll know how to make a girl feel very welcomed. Thanks for the warm welcome, everyone!

Comment From Guest

Hi, Dyan. Dick and Sandy here.

**Amanda Nicholson, WCV:**

So, we thought it would be nice to kick off the meeting with a TedTalk that Dyan did -- to set the tone. It's about 10 mins long -- so we'll play and then chat. If you are late joining us, just click on the video to start it playing!

**Amanda Nicholson, WCV:**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YL1Xwfya_00

Comment From BarbG

great video and talk

**Chapin Hardy, WCV:**

:Clap Clap Clap!:

Comment From Lacy

That's a great summary of the book.

Comment From Lydia PA

Awesome talk!

Comment From Susan from NJ

Thanks, Dyan, that was excellent.

Comment From CK in Pa

Inspiring video!

Comment From Brenda from Virginia

I had seen this before, and it's still great to see again. Bravo!

Comment From Carrie/Izzy

applause Amazing video I love Ted talks they are always so inspiring! I have to admit the photos of the penguins made me tear up, knowing all they went through

Comment From Sarah J.

Yes! I enjoyed it!

Comment From CarolinaGirl

Great video!

Comment From Dyan deNapoli - The Penguin Lady

Thanks!

Comment From rejoyce

Dyan, we are so happy to have you here with us! And thank you SO MUCH for everything you did to save these penguins!! Your devotion and dedication is heartwarming and your emotional response to these events touched me to the core :)

Comment From Seahawk Nadine-U.P., WA

Hi Dyan, I bought the audio book because I do a lot of driving so found it best for me to get through it this time of year. Thanks for being here with us.

**Amanda Nicholson, WCV:**

Well that was a great "cliff notes" version too in case we have any folks here who didn't read the book! So ... what did you guys think? We can identify a few "themes" and then chat!

Comment From rejoyce

The world needs more people like you!!!

Comment From Dyan deNapoli - The Penguin Lady

Thanks everyone! SO glad you all enjoyed it.

Comment From Dyan deNapoli - The Penguin Lady

Aw - thank you rejoyce! That is very sweet.

Comment From Marianne in NC

I've read several books lately by people describing experiences so life-changing (in a good way), that they found their return to normal life very jarring and barren. You describe this, too. What is your perspective today?

Comment From CarolinaGirl

The magnitude of the job facing them, for me, is just unimaginable!

Comment From Dyan deNapoli - The Penguin Lady

Well, the return to normal life truly was jarring. And, as I described in the book, I felt adrift for a while. Looking back - 15 years on - the experience truly did change me forever. But in a good way. I learned, as I said in the talk, that I am capable of handling SO much more than I ever knew.

Comment From Carrie/Izzy

I think that the book proved that one person caring can lead others to care about wildlife. And that if we all care enough even a crisis so vast as an oil spill can have minimal effect on our world.

Comment From Barb B in NJ

So glad the WCV opened our eyes to this happening.

Comment From Lydia PA

The book itself was so full of information...even down to the point when you would fall into bed at night Dyan in unconscious stupor from sheer exhaustion

Comment From BarbG

this was truly an eye opening type book in a real good way



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

What was your favorite part of the book ... and/or your biggest impression?

Comment From Lacy

My biggest impression from the book was that when bad things happen, people surprise you with their response and their willingness to give their time and energy... I think there's a Mr. Rogers quote about helpers? It really reinforces that there are some really great people in the world that show up just when they are needed most.

Comment From Kathryn in Mi

I was surprised and impressed by the number of volunteers who came to do what was a very difficult job.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

I agree - the volunteer turnout was really impressive.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

I really enjoyed the stories of the volunteers – you could really tell how the people involved touched Dyan so deeply. Reading about Welcome was both enjoyable and very emotional.

Comment From BarbG

huge volunteer response was very impressive

Comment From Seahawk Nadine-U.P., WA

The #'s of penguins that were/are effected by these oil spills was overwhelming but loved the way the team work came into play to get them back out and free again.

Comment From Dyan deNapoli - The Penguin Lady

Oh, sweet Welcome. He was such a special man.

Comment From Barb B in NJ

Every volunteer was important and every penguin was important, even tho they bite.

Comment From Seahawk Nadine-U.P., WA

I felt bad for the teenager that wanted to help but couldn't because of her age.

Comment From Carrie/Izzy

I think my greatest impression was that we as human beings can have such a profound impact if there is someone to lead the way. The sheer number of people trained to care for and tend to the penguins seems immense!

Comment From Dyan deNapoli - The Penguin Lady

And yes - those 12,500 incredible volunteers are all my heroes.

**Amanda Nicholson, WCV:**

I loved reading about the "fancy" lady too -- nails done and everything, hosing poo off of the mats!

**Amanda Nicholson, WCV:**

It's a testament to how every job really is important -- not just the glamorous hands-on animal stuff.

Comment From rejoyce

Yes, that was so funny!

Comment From Dyan deNapoli - The Penguin Lady

"Every volunteer was important and every penguin was important, even though they bite." So true, Barb!

Comment From Marianne in NC

So much impressed me. At the end, the biggest impression is that you guys and all the volunteers actually DID it, and with such a low mortality rate.

Comment From CarolinaGirl

I loved the story of the under aged (14yr old) She was truly a gift that had to leave.

Comment From CK in Pa

I loved the stories of the volunteers and was amazed at the number of them.

Comment From Dyan deNapoli - The Penguin Lady

Me too, Seehawk. I'm actually on Facebook with Didi today! Tracked her down there when I was writing the book.

Comment From Seahawk Nadine-U.P., WA

Oh yes the "ta-ta" lady as I call her. She was determined to help out. LOL Made me smile

Comment From Carrie/Izzy

Amanda the fancy lady reminds me a bit of the wcv staff always looking amazing even on hospital cam when you all are working so hard :)



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Ha!



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

We're not fancy ...



Raina Krasner, WCV:

I feel like the only time we're fancy is at the gala.

Comment From Lacy

Amanda is a fancy lady!



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

Riiight.

Comment From Carrie/Izzy

It would be interesting to know how many volunteers after that day went on to continue caring for wildlife in some capacity. I would imagine that such an effort would leave quite an impact on everyone.



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

Agreed!



Raina Krasner, WCV:

But it was so cool that someone all "glam" was willing to get dirty for the penguins.



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

I loved how you set the scene by focusing one penguin's experience being oiled. Very engaging and really hooked the reader by evoking a lot of emotion.

Comment From Dyan deNapoli - The Penguin Lady

I can still hear Big Mike telling me that story via Skype when I interviewed him. He was cracking me up with it! ;)



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Big Mike seemed like he was a character :)



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

Yes, I loved the first chapter of the book too. Effective to tell the story using one penguin -- sometimes the sheer numbers can be overwhelming. I liked that first connection.

Comment From rejoyce

I found myself alternately crying and smiling. The book brought out so many emotions in me!



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Oh yes! The opening scene in the book was very dramatic and definitely set the stage.

Comment From Dyan deNapoli - The Penguin Lady

Oops - cross posted. Not the story of the one penguin, but the story of the 'fancy' lady.

Comment From Susan from NJ

Dyan, your writing was so descriptive. That moment when you first walked into the penguin room with no noise and all that awful smell. I felt like I was there.

Comment From CarolinaGirl

Me too Susan from NJ. I could almost smell a stink!

Comment From Seahawk Nadine-U.P., WA

My heart was in my throat for you when you had to change jobs and go supervisor another area you had not done before. I know that had to be hard but YOU DID IT!!!

Comment From Lacy

Yes - I immediately was pulled into the story once it was told from the penguin's perspective.

Comment From Dyan deNapoli - The Penguin Lady

Susan - there is nothing than an author loves hearing more than someone saying "I felt like I was there". Thank you! It means we've done our job well...



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Dyan, you were a very descriptive author. I loved that you included photos, too.

Comment From SEK in CO

Yes that first look at the room of penguins - I felt your overwhelming OMG moment.

Comment From BarbG

Definitely felt we were right there the whole book

Comment From Lydia PA

It was very difficult to read about the initial decision being to focus on collecting the adults, and leaving the chicks behind. I thought you did an excellent job of explaining that. In terms of conservation it made the most sense, but on a emotional level, what a terribly hard decision



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

Oh goodness ... I just remembered that I have so many wonderful photos from Dyan, and also from BarbG and Susan -- who went to South Africa and got to see penguins!! I should just drop them in to set the stage a bit more ...



Amanda Nicholson, WCV



photo property of Dyan deNapoli



Amanda Nicholson, WCV



photo property of Dyan deNapoli

Comment From Dyan deNapoli - The Penguin Lady

And I have to give my friend and writing pal Donna Childs the credit for the opening scene. She suggested starting it from the viewpoint of one oiled penguin. So, thanks to Donna for that!



Amanda Nicholson, WCV



photo by Les Underhill

Comment From Dick and Sandy

The fact that you have no photos of yourself doing the work says a lot about how intense you had to be.

Comment From Barb B in NJ

Yes, I too wondered how many of the volunteers continued in some way to be involved with wildlife.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

I think that's "the one" of Dyan, right? :)

Comment From Carrie/Izzy

I loved that there wasn't a part of the story where you had to struggle to find the sense of purpose or emotion. Every step of the way I found myself so engaged with the words I often found it hard to put down.

Comment From Brenda from Virginia

The book made me feel as if I were there. I felt the magnitude of the task, the compassion of all those people for the penguins, the stress and exhaustion, and the feeling of unreality upon the return home. Early in the first chapter I was engaged and could hardly stop reading in my eagerness to learn how this incredible feat was accomplished, and I knew very early that I very much liked the author as a person and came to feel the same about the others that were described. It is a very emotional read but in a good way, and it certainly shows that when people work together with commitment, there is very little that they can't overcome. It also shows that humans need to wake up and start protecting this planet and the life on it.

Comment From Dyan deNapoli - The Penguin Lady

Yes, yes, Lydia. Agonizing for all. But, as you said, necessary in terms of conservation.

Comment From Dyan deNapoli - The Penguin Lady

That's an overview of the chick rearing room at the Salt River Rescue Centre. Two of my teammates from the US, Lauren DuBois and Steven Sarro were in charge of that room. They essentially handraised 700 penguin chicks themselves!

Raina Krasner, WCV:

Ahh! Baby penguins :)



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

Lots of baby penguins!

Comment From Dyan deNapoli - The Penguin Lady

Exactly, Dick and Sandy! My boss, Dan, had a FIT when we arrived back at the aquarium with no photos of ourselves there.



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

All those mouths to feed!

Comment From Marianne in NC

Wish you'd taken that photo of yourself with all the cuts and bruises! But I could understand why you didn't.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV



Comment From BarbG

love those baby penguins

Comment From Sarah J.

Baby penguins always bring smiles! :)

Comment From rejoyce

Cuteness!!

Comment From Lacy

Cute little fuzzballs!

Comment From Lydia PA

And having to leave the chick behind initially broke my heart (tho I understand the reasoning)

Comment From Dyan deNapoli - The Penguin Lady

Oh my goodness, Carrie/Izzy and Brenda - you're gonna make me cry!

Comment From Jersey Shore Amy

I'm just now joining, and have scrolled back - will watch the video later. I did not finish the book, but didn't want to miss this discussion, especially having Dyan with us!



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Oops, I think I lost a comment there from Dyan.

Comment From Dyan deNapoli - The Penguin Lady

I really wish I'd taken that photo too, Marianne!

Comment From rejoyce

The fact that you don't have pictures of yourself not only shows how consumed you were with the task at hand, but also shows that it was not about you at all.

Comment From Dyan deNapoli - The Penguin Lady

Yes - that's the only one! That was taken by Gary Egrie, who I write about in the book. He and his fiancée Dianne had come to SA to visit her family. They would up spending 6 entire weeks at SANCCOB, before he had to return to the US to start vet school. They were incredible.

Comment From Becky in SoCal

Just now able to get here....Hello, Dyan. Loving the book, still reading, definitely going to finish. Thank you for caring for these beautiful animals and for writing this book.

Comment From Dyan deNapoli - The Penguin Lady

And many of you have raised a really interesting point. I don't know how many of the volunteers continued working with wildlife after the Treasure rescue. I do know there were many who got positions at SANCCOB afterwards as volunteers and even as staff. I'll have to check with the folks at SANCCOB to see if they have any more info about that.

Comment From Seahawk Nadine-U.P., WA

Well I am glad you still keep in touch with Didi. I bet she really appreciates it for sure.

Comment From Jersey Shore Amy

I found I could only read the book in short sittings, felt so emotionally wrapped up in it. So it might take me a while longer to finish! Felt I was learning a tremendous amount each chapter.

Comment From rejoyce

I'm sure that many of them were inspired to continue their work after this rescue. It must have been such a rewarding experience!

Comment From CarolinaGirl

Loved your description of bathing a penguin. Like bathing a slippery toddler in the midst of a temper tantrum! Been there and done that! Not fun!

Comment From SEK in CO

I appreciated the breakdown of how the penguin feathers work and layering. Made it so much easier to understand what was necessary for the cleaning.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV



Photo by Tony Van Dalsen



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

Yes, great info on how feathers work!

Raina Krasner, WCV:

Penguin bath!

Comment From Jersey Shore Amy

I had to read the part about the feathers twice! Amazing.

Comment From Dyan deNapoli - The Penguin Lady

Hi Becky and Jersey Shore Amy - so glad you were able to hop onto the conversation!

Comment From Marianne in NC

And checking ALL the feathers before the penguins could be released. That's a daunting task, but you explained how necessary it was.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

Waterproofing is so important!

Comment From Dyan deNapoli - The Penguin Lady

LOL! I'd forgotten I'd used that analogy, CarolinaGirl.

Comment From Lacy

I never truly understood why oil impacts the feathers of birds like it does so it was very helpful to have that information laid out so clearly in the book.

Comment From BarbG

I never understood exactly how the oil on the birds work either-very helpful

**Raina Krasner, WCV:**

I loved when Dyan talked about how penguins have evolved to be cold-water hunters.

Comment From Seahawk Nadine-U.P., WA

How fast can penguins go under water?

Comment From Lydia PA

I am with you Jersey Shore Amy. I found I needed to keep going back over that part

Comment From Dyan deNapoli - The Penguin Lady

Ah - I'm glad to know it helped with your understanding of how their feathers protect them, and how the oil impacts them.

Comment From rejoyce

The book also makes you realize how connected everything is and what a delicate balance our environment is.

**Chapin Hardy, WCV:**

And how they have the dramatic molt! Very different from our birds here. I never thought about penguins molting all at once.

Comment From Dick and Sandy

Is anything new being done to control oil spills?

Comment From Jersey Shore Amy

I never thought about how vulnerable a bird is when it molts!

Comment From Dyan deNapoli - The Penguin Lady

Yes, Chapin. They truly look like miserable exploding feather pillows when they molt. And they are C-R-A-N-K-Y!!

Comment From rejoyce

I bet that is a funny sight! I never thought about bald penguins before!

Comment From Jersey Shore Amy

I'd be cranky too.

Comment From Brenda from Virginia

That molting all at once stunned me. I didn't know any birds do that.

Comment From Becky in SoCal

Talk about a bad hair day....that would make anyone cranky.

**Raina Krasner, WCV:**

It makes me think about Pignoli our screech-owl and how she molts her head feathers very dramatically. She's definitely not happy during the molt.

Comment From Dyan deNapoli - The Penguin Lady

Well, Dick and Sandy - it's sadly an unavoidable problem. They have passed laws saying that all ships now must be double hulled, but single hulled ships were grandfathered in. But even having a double hull doesn't prevent a ship from sinking, so it's a never ending battle... :(

Comment From Susan from NJ

The book tapped into so many emotions: anger at the ship causing all the trouble, happiness that so many penguins were being helped, sadness that all the babies could not be saved, thrilled by the dedication of the volunteers, fascination with the details on the work involved and satisfaction that such a large percentage of the penguins were saved!

Comment From rejoyce

Dyan, what is the status of the South African penguins today?

Comment From Dyan deNapoli - The Penguin Lady

Sorry - trying to keep track of the questions, but I'm afraid I may be missing a few as the feed scrolls down.

**Amanda Nicholson, WCV:**

It's okay -- it gets a little chaotic when you're having an online book club with 50 people!

**Raina Krasner, WCV:**

Dyan, don't worry! It's very causal, and people read back to match up answers to questions. You're doing great!

**Chapin Hardy, WCV:**

First time in the moderated discussion can be a doozy.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

Also, sometimes book clubs organize themselves nicely ... sometimes we're just all over the place when people are super excited! :)

Comment From rejoyce

Yes, we get very excited!

Comment From Dyan deNapoli - The Penguin Lady

Today, the African penguin is listed as Endangered. NOT because of oil spills, but because they are starving. Researchers believe the lack of available fish is due to climate change and overfishing. The total world population of African penguins today is just 40,000 individuals. A fraction of the number of birds when we were there. The population at the time of the Treasure oil spill was around 165,000-170,000 birds.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Yes, lots of thoughts going on at once.

Comment From rejoyce

What struck me most is the polar opposite effects that mankind can have on our world. On the one hand, it makes me furious and sad tht we have destroyed our environment in so many ways. But -- it restores your belief in mankind to realize how many people were willing to dedicate themselves to helping these penguins.

Comment From Jersey Shore Amy

I think Amanda just said we are not an organized bunch.

Comment From Sarah J.

I learned to read labeling at the grocery store even more than I already do. I didn't realize some of the prey animals of penguins was also used in pet food. The seafood crisis is so, so scary.

Comment From Sarah J.

A big impressions for me was to be more vigilant with what seafood goes into pet foods. I had no idea that a lot of prey animals of penguins go into pet food. Now I read labels even more!

Comment From rejoyce

It's a shame that mankind has had so many negative effects on the environment. We have this wonderful planet, and we are destroying it :(

Comment From Dyan deNapoli - The Penguin Lady

Excited is good! ;)

Comment From Dyan deNapoli - The Penguin Lady

And at the turn of the last century, there were a 1.5 million birds. So, more than a 95% decline in a century.

Comment From Jersey Shore Amy

Only 40,000 penguins left? That is really sad.

Comment From BarbG

we just multi-task the conversations

Comment From Carrie/Izzy

Is there a way to make people more aware of the issues that over fishing causes? Also is there a way to restore a balance so that food is there for the penguins? To read such a small number of penguins remain is heartbreaking.

Comment From rejoyce

The book really motivated me and made me want to do so much more for wildlife!

Comment From Lydia PA

That is indeed very sad...and frightening (numbers down to 40,000)

Comment From Dyan deNapoli - The Penguin Lady

And you have echoed the sentiments of so many people who were at the rescue centers, rejoyce. Anger at the shipping companies, but a restored faith in humanity at the response to the oil spill.

Comment From Jersey Shore Amy

I know this has been said already, but I found the numbers of penguins that are impacted to be just mind boggling, and the numbers of volunteers that were able to rescue.

Comment From Jersey Shore Amy

I start to feel overwhelmed - so much to do and so little time left before some of our beautiful creatures will disappear.

Comment From Mary E in NC

I was fortunate enough to see the penguin colony on the coast south of Capetown - they are fascinating! Saw some mamas and chicks, too!

Comment From rejoyce

You said in the book that these birds could be gone by 2020. Is that still the case?



Amanda Nicholson, WCV



photo by BarbG



Amanda Nicholson, WCV



photo by BarbG



Amanda Nicholson, WCV



photo by BarbG



Amanda Nicholson, WCV



photo by BarbG



Amanda Nicholson, WCV



photo by BarbG



Amanda Nicholson, WCV



photo by BarbG



Amanda Nicholson, WCV



photo by BarbG

Comment From Lacy

awesome photos, BarbG!



Raina Krasner, WCV:

We'll slow down so Dyan has a chance to respond to any questions or comments ...

Comment From Lydia PA

Great photos Barb!

Comment From Dyan deNapoli - The Penguin Lady

Some of you are already answering a question that I wanted to ask. Did this story make you rethink the way you currently do certain things? Are there habits you want to change or adopt to help protect our planet? Or maybe you all already were doing so beforehand...



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Chapin, Lacy, and I discussed how it made us rethink seafood consumption.



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

Yes, I struggle with that a bit ...

Comment From Dyan deNapoli - The Penguin Lady

Carrie/Izzy - I think that many people are unaware of how extreme overfishing is, and the amount of bycatch there is in commercial fisheries. I think, as Sylvia Earle says in *The Earth is Blue*, we all need to reduce the amount of seafood that we eat. They say we may not have any edible seafood left after 2048 at this rate.

Comment From rejoyce

It definitely made me rethink a lot of things!!

Comment From CarolinaGirl

I would soooo love to see the flimsy grocery store type plastic bags outlawed. I use reusable bags.

**Chapin Hardy, WCV:**

I only eat it once or twice a month, but then again that is still somewhat selfish. But it's a start and I'm trying to decrease my consumption

**Raina Krasner, WCV:**

Yes, Dyan ... a few months ago we read a book about plastic in the ocean, so I think many of us made a connection between your book and other things we've read about the human impact on oceans.

Comment From BarbG

definitely thinking about seafood consumption and pet food

Comment From Lydia PA

Wow I i think, "as Sylvia Earle says in The Earth is Blue, we all need to reduce the amount of seafood that we eat. They say we may not have any edible seafood left after 2048 at this rate."

Comment From Lacy

Yes, I had no idea how extreme the over fishing was until I read t. Just one more reason to look at the labels on our food and make a bigger effort where our food is coming from and what impact we as consumers have on our planet.

Comment From Brenda from Virginia

I don't eat meat or seafood, but I buy things in plastic packaging and am trying to find better alternatives.

**Amanda Nicholson, WCV:**

Yes! Some references to other themes we've had in book clubs – references to plastic ingestion.

Comment From Dyan deNapoli - The Penguin Lady

Hopefully not at this point, rejoyce. At the time the book was written, some of the modeling programs predicted that. But I think they're now saying between then and 2080 or so. I'd have to double check on the latest thinking about that.

Comment From Dyan deNapoli - The Penguin Lady

Aww - healthy African penguins! :)

Comment From Dyan deNapoli - The Penguin Lady

And Table Mountain! I saw the mountain from my hotel room - on the rare occasion that I saw it in daylight!



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

Yes, that is a very lovely photo!

Comment From Carrie/Izzy

I think this story really made me question what can I do now that will have a lasting impact. I know for me going to a spill or learning to rehab animals would be a stretch, so I know I'd like to consider where my strengths lie and how I could better use them to promote a better world.

Comment From Sarah J.

Straws are a big one! I am really trying to remember to NOT get straws when I go to restaurants. I saw a video of a sea turtle with one stuck in his nose and I always think of that now when I see straws. :(

Comment From rejoyce

Me too, CarolinaGirl! I always carry my WCV bags with me :)

Comment From Sarah J.

Seafood consumption for sure! There are seafood alternatives out there. Some of them don't taste like the real thing but I believe it is a start.

Comment From SAH

Wonderful photos BarbG! Thanks for sharing them!

Comment From Seahawk Nadine-U.P., WA

I do a lot as far as litter goes as well for cutting up plastic stuff, netting or anything that might make it to the ocean waters.

Comment From Dyan deNapoli - The Penguin Lady

Love that Carrie/Izzy. We all have our unique set of gifts and strengths, and we can all use those gifts for good in some way.

Comment From Brenda from Virginia

Sarah J., I saw that video too and swore right then that I will never use a straw again!

Comment From rejoyce

I am so glad to have had the opportunity to read about this rescue. It was an amazing operation!

Comment From Dyan deNapoli - The Penguin Lady

Ditto on the video with the straw. Just awful...

Comment From Brenda from Virginia

Has any company worked with Louis to mass produce his degreaser?

Comment From Dyan deNapoli - The Penguin Lady

Great question, Brenda!! You know, I tried to track him down when I was writing the book, and wasn't able to connect with him. I recently heard from his father, and he has become a doctor (practicing human medicine). I need to ask him that question for sure!



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Very cool!

Comment From Dick and Sandy

Restaurants should stop providing straws.

Comment From Brenda from Virginia

That's great about Louis' becoming a doctor. Good for him!

Comment From Lydia PA

Yes, Plastic Ocean as well as reading Silence of the Songbirds cause many of us to rethink the way we use products or buy things (the switch the shade green coffee for example). But I did not realize until now how horrible overfished some of the sea waters are/ That is indeed scary

Comment From Dyan deNapoli - The Penguin Lady

That would be a good start, Dick and Sandy.

Comment From Sarah J.

I have been to some zoos where they have recyclable straws. I wish more places would follow that lead if they absolutely need to use straws.

Comment From Carrie/Izzy

I'm curious to know, is there one task over the others that was most easily taught to volunteers?

Comment From Dyan deNapoli - The Penguin Lady

Well Carrie/Izzy - most people wanted the 'glamorous' job of feeding or washing the penguins. But those were definitely the hardest jobs that only the most experienced and dedicated volunteers did. There were so many different jobs, it's hard to say which might've been easiest. I would say maybe passing out the wellies (rubber boots) and oilskins (foul weather gear) to the volunteers.

Comment From Sarah J.

The penguin who was squeezed into a sweater made by a well meaning volunteer made me giggle too! I tried to imagine what must have been going through the penguins head!

Comment From Marianne in NC

Dyan, what is your life like now as the Penguin Lady? How many presentations do you make. Where do you go? Do you testify or make presentations for political goals?

Comment From Dyan deNapoli - The Penguin Lady

But, in terms of animal care, maybe being the handler that stood between two tubs, and passed the just-fed bird from one tub to another.

Comment From Carrie/Izzy

I found it interesting that penguins that had been exposed to hand feeding and training before remembered what to do. It makes me curious to know if they would remember the oil as a danger at all?

Comment From Dyan deNapoli - The Penguin Lady

Well, Marianne - I never could have imagined how much my life would change after leaving the aquarium, and setting out on my own as The Penguin Lady. I now travel all over teaching kids and adults about penguin biology, behavior and conservation. I speak at grade schools, colleges, museums, libraries, conferences, and on nature cruises. I've spoken at four TEDx conferences now, and wrote and narrated a video about penguin conservation for TED-Ed. (I LOVE the animation they did for that video.) I recently partnered with Absolute Travel, a luxury travel company in NYC, to lead penguin viewing trips. And I'll be headed back to Antarctica next year as part of a women in science leadership development program, which I'm VERY excited about!

Comment From Dyan deNapoli - The Penguin Lady

No political testifying...yet. Part of the trip to Antarctica is to teach women how to have a stronger voice at the global leadership table, so I hope to come back from those 3 weeks with some new skills in my tool belt. I hate politics, but if you want to really change things in a big way, sometime you have to learn how to play the game...

Comment From Marianne in NC

What a valuable and rewarding life! Thank you for diving into it.

Comment From Dyan deNapoli - The Penguin Lady

And I continue to donate 20% of the proceeds from my book and from every appearance to penguin rescue groups.

Comment From Jersey Shore Amy

Penguins have changed your life!

Comment From CarolinaGirl

Wow! You must be a busy lady. Thanks for all you are doing!

Comment From Seahawk Nadine-U.P., WA

Thank you BarbG and others for the great pictures. Dyan I am so glad you could be here with us to help answer questions and hear how much we truly learned and enjoyed your book.

Comment From Lacy

Sorry guys but I have to get going... Thanks for joining us Dyan! It has been great having your direct input on this amazing experience! Thank you for all you do for penguins, wildlife and spreading information of how we can better treat our planet to make things better for ALL of its inhabitants!

Comment From Brenda from Virginia

The penguins and the earth have a good friend in you, Dyan. Thank you for all you do.

Comment From Carrie/Izzy

Any intentions on writing another book perhaps your life story? You have so much inspiration and your words tonight have been endlessly captivating.

Comment From Dyan deNapoli - The Penguin Lady

Thank you SO much for hosting this, and thank ALL of you so much for reading the book, and for being so enthusiastic about it! I have thoroughly enjoyed our conversation tonight!

Comment From Sarah J.

Thank you for taking the time to "speak" with us, Dyan. I have already bought another copy of your book for my mom for Christmas. I know she will learn a lot from it like I did.

Comment From Dyan deNapoli - The Penguin Lady

Possibly another book after the Antarctica trip. I'll be on a ship with 78 female scientists from around the globe. Lots of amazing stuff is gonna come out of that, I'm sure!

Comment From BarbG

I think a penguin viewing trip would be awesome

Comment From SEK in CO

Very much enjoyed your book and hope you get back to SA again soon!

Comment From Jersey Shore Amy

I totally forgot about how straws used to be heavy paper - they survived long enough for the task at hand!

Comment From rejoyce

You are so right Lydia!! AS difficult as some of these books are to read, they have really opened our eyes to so many dangers to our environment.

Comment From Brenda from Virginia

Bye, Lacy. Have a good night.

Comment From TerryMI

One of the best happy moments in the book is when you went to Boulders Beach and saw healthy happy penguins.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV



photo by Tony Van Dalsen

Comment From Marianne in NC

It's so valuable that followup research was done, and I'm glad you included it in detail at the end of the book. Some folk might say "yeah, yeah, save 20,000 oiled penguins, but I bet they'll all be dead in a month." And you could say NOT SO, with data.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

Oh wait!

Comment From BarbG

thanks Dyan for being here with us and for all the education we received through your book



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

We have to do the rating ... before we leave!



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

Goodreads rating -- 1-5. (no half stars)



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

And announce our next book!

Comment From Mary E in NC

5

Comment From Sarah J.

5

Comment From BarbG

5

Comment From Brenda from Virginia

5!

Comment From SEK in CO

5



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

Unanimous so far ...

Comment From Carrie/Izzy

Thank you Dyan for being here and for all of your powerfully inspiring words. I absolutely love each day that I get to spend learning thanks to WCV so this has been an experience I will never forget! Book rating 5 but would give more if there was a way to add a +! :)

Comment From Seahawk Nadine-U.P., WA

5

Comment From Marianne in NC

5

Comment From Barb B in NJ

5, for certain

Comment From TerryMI

5+

Comment From CK in Pa

5 Loved it.

Comment From Dick and Sandy

5

Comment From rejoyce

Reading this book truly changed my life! Thank you Dyan, for writing it!

Comment From rejoyce

Reading this book truly changed my life! Thank you Dyan, for writing it!

Comment From Brenda from Virginia

Best wishes in all your endeavors, Dyan. You will do just fine when you get to the political phase. You are a talented writer and speaker.

**Amanda Nicholson, WCV:**

Okay, sounds like a five!

Comment From Jersey Shore Amy

5 !!!

Comment From rejoyce

5+++++++

Comment From Susan from NJ

5. My favorite book so far! Easy reading and so much great info!

Comment From CarolinaGirl

Most certainly a 5!

Comment From Doris

5

Comment From Lydia PA

Dyan, pardon me if this has already been mentioned and I med it. But I must say I still cannot get that picture out of my mind from your second day when you wore lighter clothes instead of your usual jeans and one of the prqins in the bool lactched onto your leg just below the knee. Ouch!!!! (Although you admitted you uttered some other words which shocked those around you). Just one of those mental pictures that stays with one

Comment From Dyan deNapoli - The Penguin Lady

And here's a link to the TED-Ed video, in case anyone wants to watch it. It's a 5-minute video designed for the classroom. Enjoy! <http://ed.ted.com/lessons/t...>

Comment From rejoyce

I learned to much about the penguins themselves. I had no idea that they are so smart!

Comment From Dick and Sandy

Your message relates to not only penguins but also to all animals in general. None should become extinct. We are proud whenever we hear you and learn once more the work you are doing.

Comment From Mary E in NC

The Greensboro Science Center has a group of African Penguins - they are trying to increase their breeding by "matchmaking"!

Comment From Marianne in NC

I found an article on the efforts to encourage reproduction ("match-making") in the Greensboro Science Center here in North Carolina. <http://myfox8.com/2015/11/2...>

Comment From SAH

Thanks Dyan for being here with us today and thanks for all you do for penguins and sea life!

Comment From Brenda from Virginia

Thanks a lot for the link, Dyan. I do want to see that.

Comment From Lydia PA

Defitely 5

Comment From Dyan deNapoli - The Penguin Lady

Oh my goodness. I'm speechless...

**Amanda Nicholson, WCV:**

Thank you SO much, Dyan! This was a very exciting book club!

Comment From GN

I will give it a razor-sharp 5.

**Chapin Hardy, WCV:**

Thank you Dyan for sharing your story as well as the penguin's. Thank you also for joining us!

Comment From Dyan deNapoli - The Penguin Lady

And ya, Lydia. I dropped quite a few F-bombs there! ;)

Comment From Brenda from Virginia

Have we ever had a book that received a 5 from everyone? I can't recall that happening before.

Comment From rejoyce

One of the best!

Comment From Marianne in NC

Thank you, Dyan! Send us a postcard from Antarctica.

Comment From CarolinaGirl

Don't think we have ever had a 5 book....

Comment From Jersey Shore Amy

Our first unanimous FIVE??!

Comment From BarbG

As a nurse for many years in ICU situations, I found myself identifying with many of the same emotions that you had during your time there and the coming home to reality

Comment From Dyan deNapoli - The Penguin Lady

I'm so glad to hear your various comments about what you learned. And, to your comment, BarbG, I was going to ask if the book left people with a very different impression/understanding of wildlife rescue and disaster relief.

Comment From Lydia PA

LOL at your 8:25 comment...I can only imagine

Comment From Dyan deNapoli - The Penguin Lady

LOL!! A razor-sharp 5! That's one of my favorites comment of the night!



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

That GN is a ... "special" guy. :P

Comment From CK in Pa

Thank you Dyan for joining us and writing a great book.

Comment From Pat, NJ

Thank you for an outstanding book club discussion. Didn't get the book in time but so look forward to reading this truly 5 book. Loved the Ted video.

Comment From Jersey Shore Amy

Yes, it made me wonder if I could pick up and leave everything to dedicate myself to a rescue!

Comment From CarolinaGirl

Thanks for joining us Dyan. We would love to hear about your "women"s trip" to Antartica.

Comment From Carrie/Izzy

I wonder how any book will follow this? Or any book club for that matter what a night :D



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

Before everyone leaves, we need to share our next book!

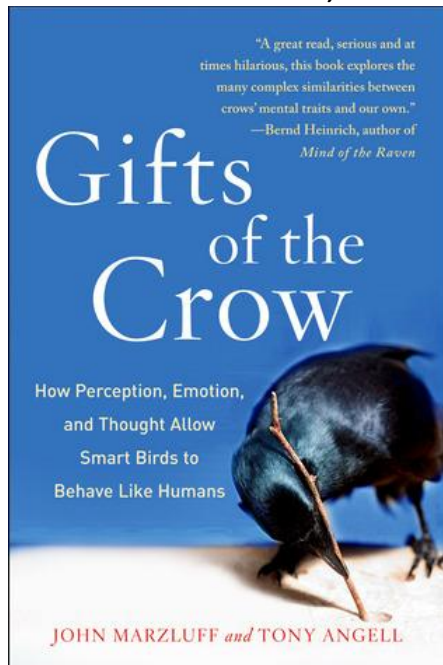


Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

So, next book club book ... we will have to set a date, but ... the book is ...



Amanda Nicholson, WCV



Gifts of the Crow: How Perception, Emotion, and Thought Allow Smart Birds to Behave Like Humans by John M. Marzluff, Tony Angell



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

Tis the season of giving ...



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

Gifts!



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

of the Jaz. :)

Comment From rejoyce

Cool!!!

Comment From BarbG

sounds wonderful

Comment From CarolinaGirl

Oh, I love crows! YAY! I just sent in a sponsorship for Jaz!

Comment From CarolinaGirl

Oh, I love crows! YAY! I just sent in a sponsorship for Jaz!

Comment From Jersey Shore Amy

Oh! I think I already have that one, but haven't read yet!

Comment From Sarah J.

Sounds interesting! I will add it to my Good Reads account!

Comment From Carrie/Izzy

Oh this sounds like a wonderful book, Jaz will be so pleased to hear we're learning more about her!

Comment From Marianne in NC

Wonderful! I've read several books on crows and ravens, but not this one. Hooray.

Comment From Dyan deNapoli - The Penguin Lady

Crows are amazing birds! Looks like a great pick.

Comment From Brenda from Virginia

I've read it, and folks are in for a treat. If you admire Jaz already, you are going to admire her even more after reading this book.

Comment From Jersey Shore Amy

I think we are stuck on birds and bees...

Comment From Lydia PA

OH YAY!!!! Gifts of the Crow! Love that book and cannot wait to reread it!

Comment From Marianne in NC

That's funny, Jersey Shore Amy.

Comment From Seahawk Nadine-U.P., WA

OH BOY!!! We get to learn about JAZ

Comment From Lydia PA

Thanks you so much for being with us tonight Dyan. I now will be following the escapades of the Penguin Lady

Comment From Seahawk Nadine-U.P., WA

Dyan if we wanted to donate something what is the best site or place?

Comment From Seahawk Nadine-U.P., WA

Who suggested the Penguin book by Dyan?



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

Mrs. Randy!

Comment From Brenda from Virginia

Tell her thanks for us, please.

Comment From Lydia PA

Gifts of the Crow is such a good book...and crows are so much. I found it fascinating

Comment From CarolinaGirl

Thank you Mrs. Randy!

Comment From Georgianne

The Ted-X talk is totally inspirational

Comment From Carrie/Izzy

Thanks so much for such a truly inspiring and educational evening: Amanda, Raina, Chapin and for arranging for Dyan to be here with us! I never envisioned we would have such a fantastic opportunity!

Comment From Jersey Shore Amy

Yes, thank you Dyan, having you join us has made for an extra special book club!

Comment From Dyan deNapoli - The Penguin Lady

Oh my goodness - thanks for asking, Seahawk. There's a whole list of rescue centers in Appendix II of my book. But my top picks are SANCCOB and YEPT <http://www.sanccob.co.za/donate> and <http://www.yellow-eyedpenguin.org.nz/passion/support-the-trusts-work/make-a-donation>
THANK YOU!!

Comment From BarbG

It made me stop and think about whether I could go around the world for non stop relief work

Comment From Lydia PA

It is WE who Thank YOU Dyan!

Comment From Dyan deNapoli - The Penguin Lady

Thank you so much for having me. And thank YOU for the wonderful and important work that you do saving wildlife and educating others at the Wildlife Center of Virginia!!

Comment From Seahawk Nadine-U.P., WA

Tell her Mrs H she suggested an awesome author and we learned a lot about penguins and wonderful volunteers.

Comment From Kathryn in Mi

Thank You Dyan for joining us here tonight!

**Chapin Hardy, WCV:**

Thank you, Dyan! Have a great rest of the evening :)

Comment From rejoyce

What a great evening! Thanks everyone!!

Comment From Seahawk Nadine-U.P., WA

Order your book from Amazon Smile and everyone wins - especially WCV

**Amanda Nicholson, WCV:**

A big thanks to everyone for coming to book club! Night, all!

Comment From Lydia PA

G'Night and thanks to all!