

MY HUSBAND AND OTHER ANIMALS

by *Janaki Lenin*

Foreword by Lee Durrell

Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, Jersey

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The Book

'Rom felt that all the trappings of the human world interfered with his ability to find king cobras. So he discarded his watch and shoes, and stripped down to a loin cloth. Not the best attire for his first brush with the devil nettle!'

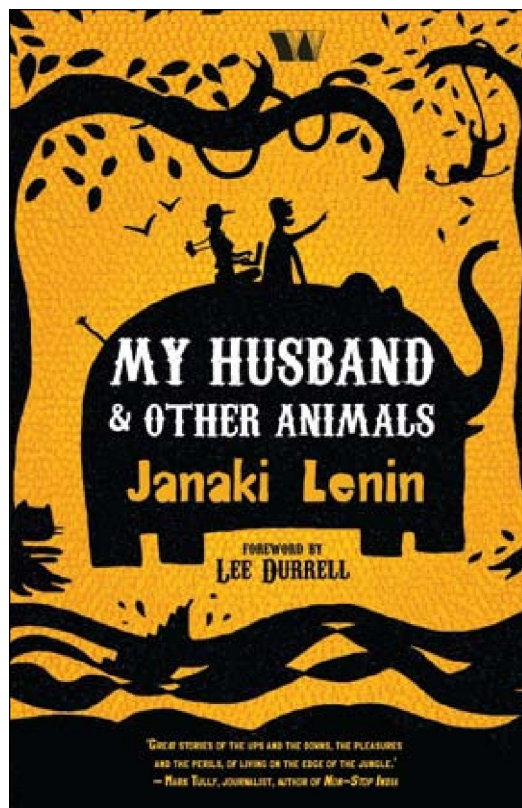
What's it like being married to Rom Whitaker – herpetologist, wildlife conservationist, and founder of the Madras Snake Park and Madras Crocodile Bank? Janaki Lenin, his wife, tells us, 'There's never a dull moment.'

Janaki – also an animal enthusiast – gives us a peek into the zany and unpredictable world that Rom and she have built together, deep in southern India. They battle tree frogs that insist on colonising their house, travel to the wilds of the world pursuing venomous snakes and monster crocodiles, devote precious hours to befriending Gila monsters, playing with porcupines, and taming opinionated shrews.

Entertaining, playful, and downright amusing, the essays shed light on the kingdoms of beasts and plants. They provide flashes of insight into animal disposition, relate human stories about the world and our place in it, and demystify nature's secret code. Most of all, they highlight Rom and Janaki's wide-eyed wonder at sharing this diverse planet with all creatures, large and small.

'With insight, verve, and deep feeling, Janaki Lenin writes about the creatures around her, from tree frogs and snakes to her dog and husband. Her essays are a delight to read.'

—George Schaller, Wildlife Conservation Society



The Author

Janaki Lenin has always had an interest in animals but living with Rom took it to the stratospheric level. They lived in the Madras Crocodile Bank for a few years, surrounded by thousands of crocodiles, snakes, turtles, and lizards. Rom and Janaki made documentaries about wildlife in wild places for a living before they moved to a farm in rural Tamil Nadu.

'A thoroughly entertaining set of essays on life in the wild! With nuggets of information on all creatures – from massive bears to invisible parasites – and countless anecdotes, each more uproarious than the next – My Husband and Other Animals, is unputdownable!'

—Rahul Dravid, Cricketer

'The legendary M. Krishnan set a near-impossible standard for nature and wild life columnists. Janaki Lenin has got there with effortless ease and the added appeal of a very feminine sensibility tromping both barefoot and in the most rugged footwear.'

—Gopalkrishna Gandhi, former governor