



**Vol. 47  
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2020**

**THIS  
EDITION  
Tigers**

**WANDER to WONDER**

# WANDER to WONDER

by MARTINA NICOLLS



Amur Tiger

**The world will never starve for wonder, but only for want of wonder.  
G.K. Chesterson**

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# CONTENTS

EDITOR'S NOTE.....	4
DAY OF THE TIGER: 29 JULY 2020.....	5
TIGER FACTS.....	6
AMUR TIGER .....	7
BENGAL TIGER.....	11
SUMATRAN TIGER .....	15
THE TYGER – WILLIAM BLAKE POEM.....	18
SAVE THE TIGER – MAMTA AGARWAL POEM .....	19
TIGER BOOKS.....	22
THE AUTHOR: MARTINA NICOLLS .....	27



Sumatran Tiger

## editor's note

*Welcome to this edition of WANDER to WONDER*

This edition of Wander to Wonder focuses on the International Tiger Day on 29 July to celebrate the tiger and raise awareness for conservation. The cover photo is an Amur Tiger.

Until next edition, with another theme,

*Martina*

MARTINA NICOLLS





## day of the tiger: 29 july 2020

International Tiger Day is held annually on 29 July. The first celebrations occurred in 2010 at the Saint Petersburg Tiger Summit in Russia.

International Tiger Day raises awareness on the declining numbers of wild tigers worldwide. Therefore, tiger conservation is essential.

Tigers belong to the cat family, and include the Amur Tiger, Bengal Tiger, Caspian Tiger, Indochinese Tiger, Malayan Tiger, Sumatran Tiger, and South China Tiger.



Sumatran Tiger

## tiger facts

1. The tiger has excellent vision in the dark. Its night vision is six times better than the night vision of a human.
2. Tiger urine can provide zoologists with information on its age, sex, health, and fitness.
3. When tigers kill their prey, females and young ones eat first. Male tigers eat last.
4. A tiger's stripes are not only on its fur, but also on its skin.



Sumatran Tiger



## amur tiger

The Amur Tiger (*Panthera tigris tigris* or *Panthera tigris altaica*) is also known as the Siberian Tiger, the Manchurian Tiger, or the Korean Tiger.

The Amur Tiger is reddish-rusty brown with narrow black transverse stripes. It has short legs and a long tail. It has moderately thick, coarse fur. Its winter coat is thicker, longer, softer, and silkier than its summer fur. It has whiskers and hair on the back of its head and the top of its neck is elongated.

Along with the Bengal Tiger, the Amur Tiger is one of the largest tigers in the world, measuring 150 centimetres (60 inches) in length. Its tail measures 91-99 centimetres (36-39 inches) long. Its whiskers are 9-11 centimetres (4-5 inches) long.

The Amur Tiger is native to the Russian Far East and northeast China.

It feeds on wapiti, deer, goral, moose, wild boar, hares, rabbits, pikas, and sometimes salmon. It is crepuscular, active at dawn and dusk.

The female Amur Tiger is pregnant for 90-104 days, before giving birth to a litter of 2-4 young, called cubs, in a sheltered den. The cubs are born blind. Female cubs remain close to their mother, whereas male cubs travel alone to look for food.

The average lifespan for the Amur Tiger is 16-18 years.















## bengal tiger

The Bengal Tiger (*Panthera tigris tigris*) is the largest of the wild cat family.

The Bengal Tiger can grow to 150-180 centimetres (60-72 inches) in length with a tail of 50-100 centimetres (20-39 inches) long.

The Bengal tiger lives in the Bengal area of Bangladesh and eastern India.

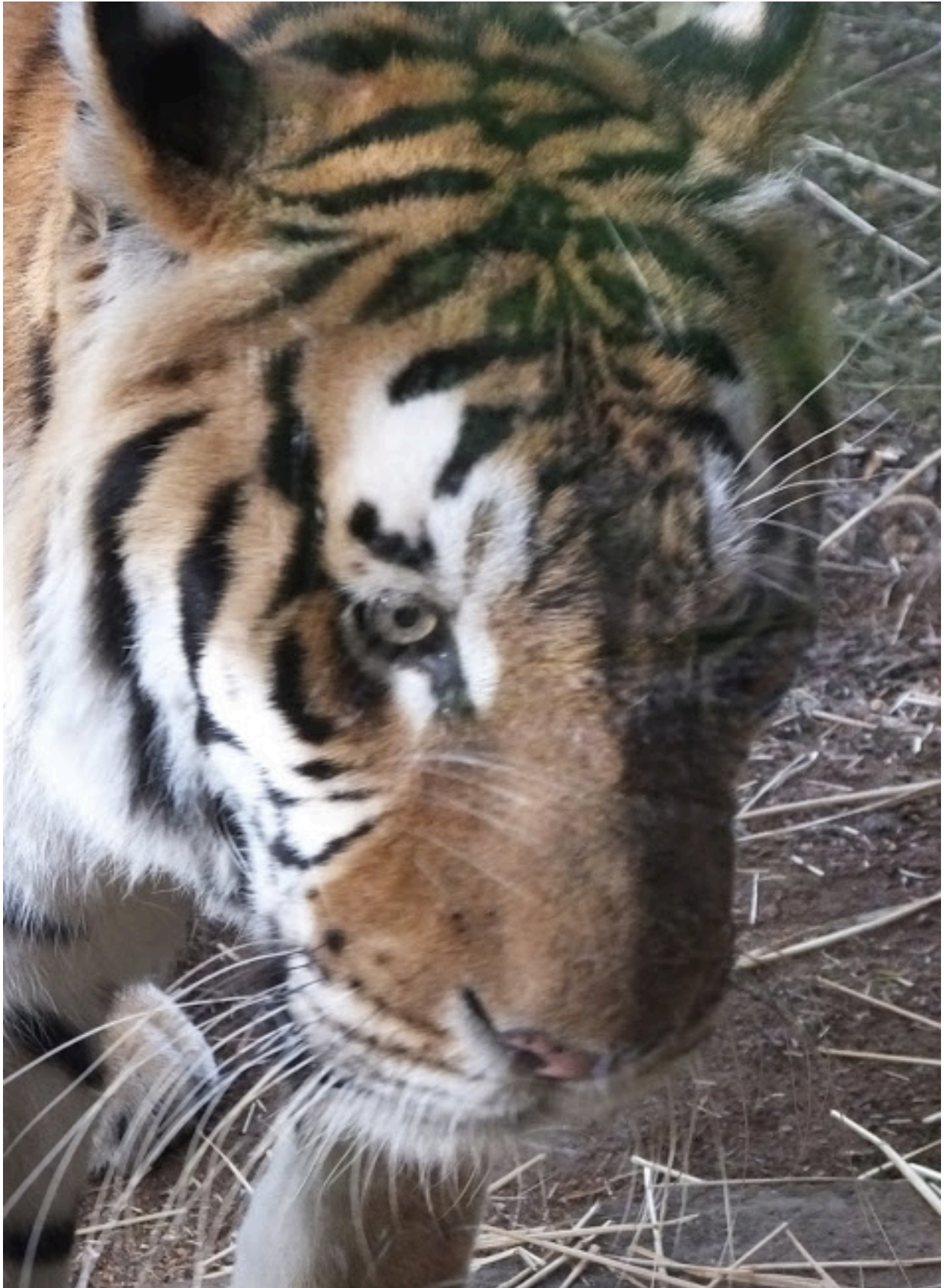
It lives alone and marks its large territory with its scent to keep other tigers away.

It is nocturnal. It hunts at night for buffalo, deer, wild pigs, and other large mammals. It camouflages itself in the bushland and leaps onto its prey.

The female Bengal Tiger has 2-6 young. The cubs learn to hunt when they are 18 months old. The cubs stay with their mother for 2-3 years, then separate to find their own territory.

Its average life span in the wild is 8-10 years.















## sumatran tiger

The Sumatran Tiger (*Panthera tigris sondaica*) is native to Sumatra, an island of Indonesia.

The Sumatran Tiger has rich, shiny orange-brown fur with broad, dark, irregular, vertical stripes. It has a white ruff around its neck and long, white whiskers. Its paws are broad and sharply clawed.

It is one of the smallest tiger species in the world, measuring about 255 centimetres (100 inches) in length.

It is unlike most other tigers, because it likes to swim. It has webbing between its toes to enable it to swim. On land, it can run fast. It prefers to live in wild, dense forests, grasslands or wetlands, away from people. It is a solitary, carnivorous apex predator. It pounces on its prey.

The female is pregnant for about 100 days, before giving birth to 1-6 live young. The cubs are born blind, but soon gain their sight. Cubs stay with their mother for about two years. Fathers do not look after their cubs. In the wild, the Sumatran Tiger lives up to 10-12 years.









## the tyger – william blake poem

### **The Tyger - Poem by William Blake (1794)**

Tyger Tyger, burning bright,  
In the forests of the night;  
What immortal hand or eye,  
Could frame thy fearful symmetry?

In what distant deeps or skies.  
Burnt the fire of thine eyes?  
On what wings dare he aspire?  
What the hand, dare seize the fire?

And what shoulder, & what art,  
Could twist the sinews of thy heart?  
And when thy heart began to beat,  
What dread hand? & what dread feet?

What the hammer? what the chain,  
In what furnace was thy brain?  
What the anvil? what dread grasp,  
Dare its deadly terrors clasp!

When the stars threw down their spears  
And water'd heaven with their tears:  
Did he smile his work to see?  
Did he who made the Lamb make thee?

Tyger Tyger burning bright,  
In the forests of the night:  
What immortal hand or eye,  
Dare frame thy fearful symmetry?



Sumatran Tiger



# save the tiger – mamta agarwal poem

## **Save The Tiger - Poem by Mamta Agarwal (circa 2008)**

As a child when I went to the circus,  
Though I loved the clowns and the acrobats,  
I hated when the ringmaster made the animals act  
And do unnatural things,  
To tickle human beings.  
As the tiger came out of the cage,  
You could see he was in rage.

On a visit to the zoo,  
Seeing the tiger roam,  
I often wondered,  
How does it feel  
To be uprooted from your natural habitat.  
The frustration was writ large on the face of the royal cat.

On growing up, and on a visit to  
A family friend's farm house,  
I used to squirm to see walls decorated with tiger skins  
And the conversation full of anecdotes of the kill.  
I often wonder  
Is that why it's becoming extinct.

We really had no right to kill  
For pleasure or greed,  
Every creature has a place in the scheme of things  
It's sad today the tiger tops the list of endangered species.

I still remember the poem by Blake,  
Which I read in the seventh grade.  
The day is not far when those famous stripes  
Will just adorn the rags of designer lines.



Sumatran Tiger



Sumatran Tiger



Amur Tiger

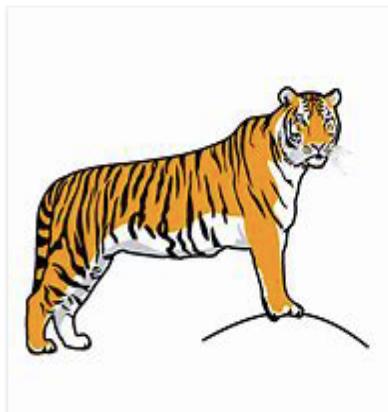




Amur Tiger (left), Bengal Tiger (middle), Sumatran Tiger (right)



Amur Tiger (left), Bengal Tiger (middle), Sumatran Tiger (right)



## tiger books

Below is a list of some tiger tales:

Life of Pi – Yann Martel

Of Tigers and Men – Richard Ives

Sariska: The Tiger Reserve Roars Again – Sunayan Sharma

The Jungle Books – Rudyard Kipling

The Tiger: A True Story of Vengeance and Survival – John Vaillant

The Tiger who came to Tea – Judith Kerr

The Velvet Claw: A Natural History of the Carnivores – David W. Macdonald

There's a Tiger in the Garden – Lizzy Stewart

Tiger on a Tree – Anushka Ravishankar

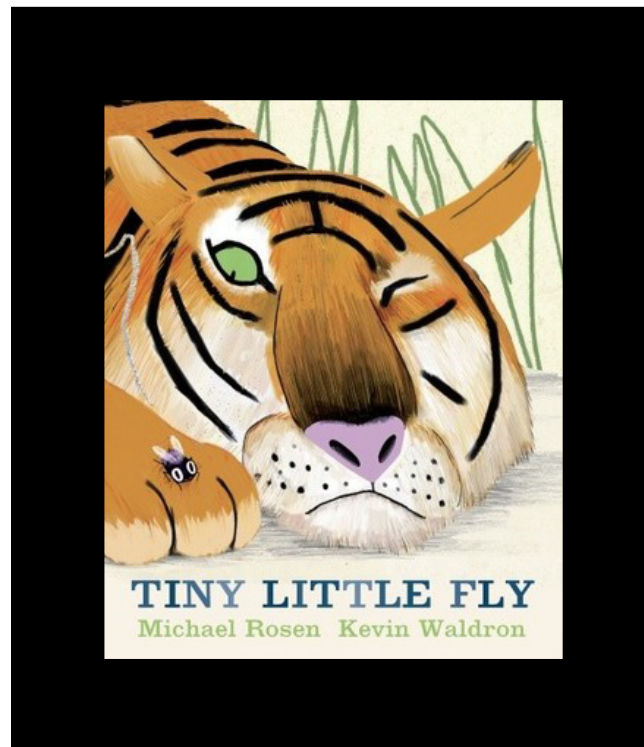
Tiger vs. Nightmare – Emily Tetri

Tigers in Red Weather: A Quest for the Last Wild Tigers – Ruth Padel

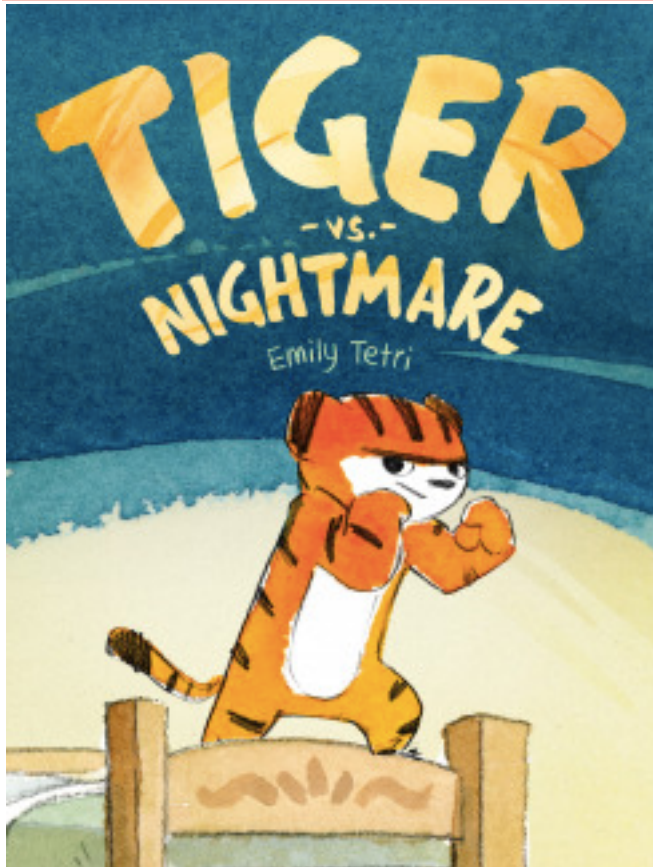
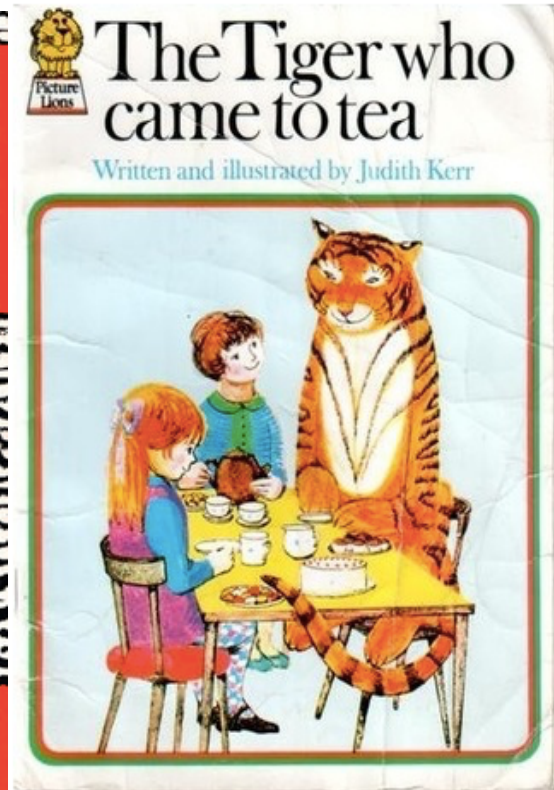
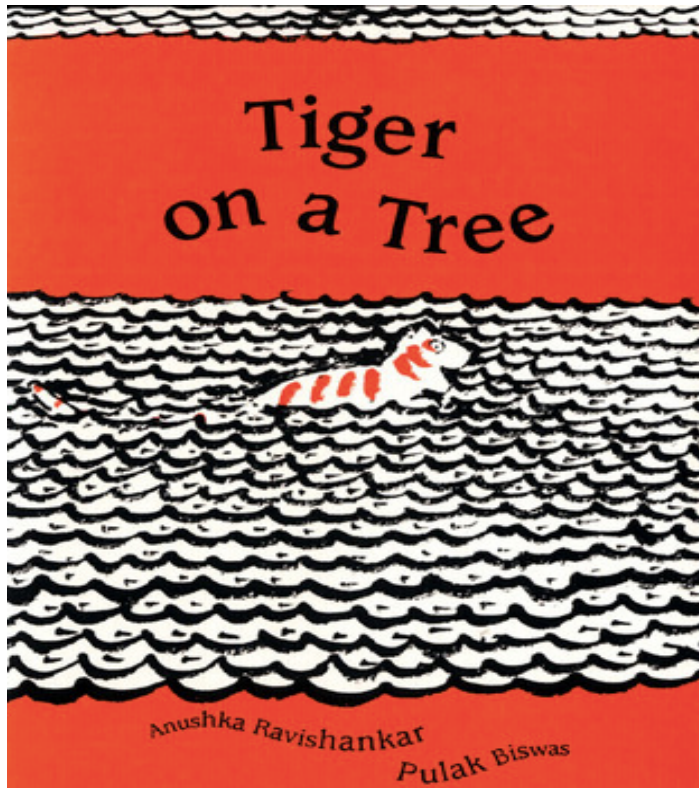
Tigers of the World – Ronald Tilson

Tigers: The Secret Life – Valmik Thapar

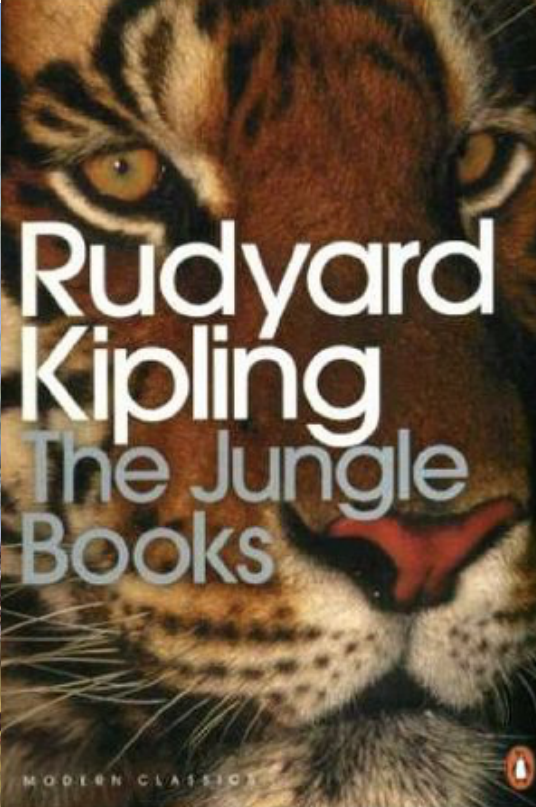
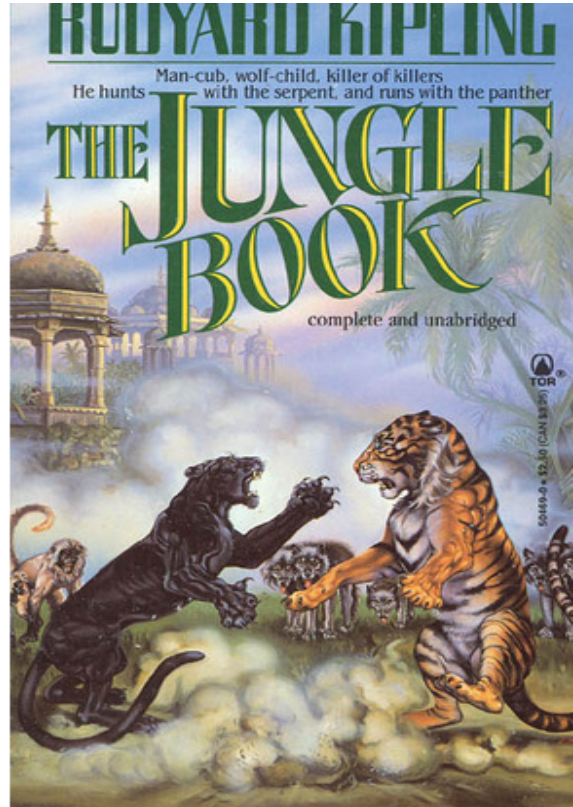
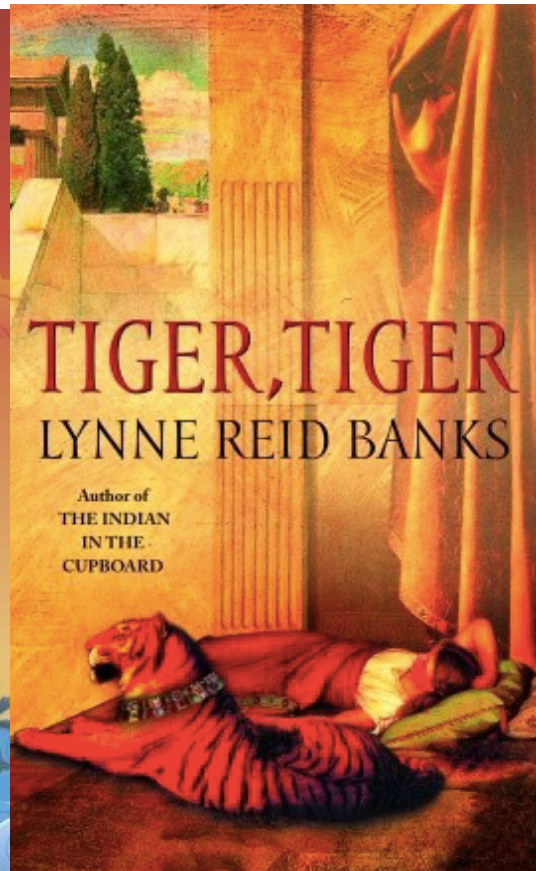
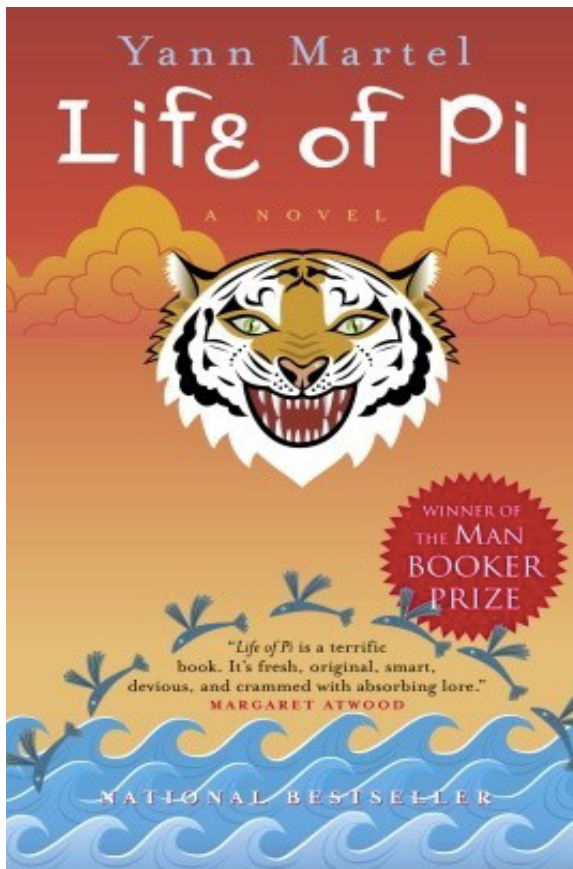
Tiny Little Fly – Michael Rosen



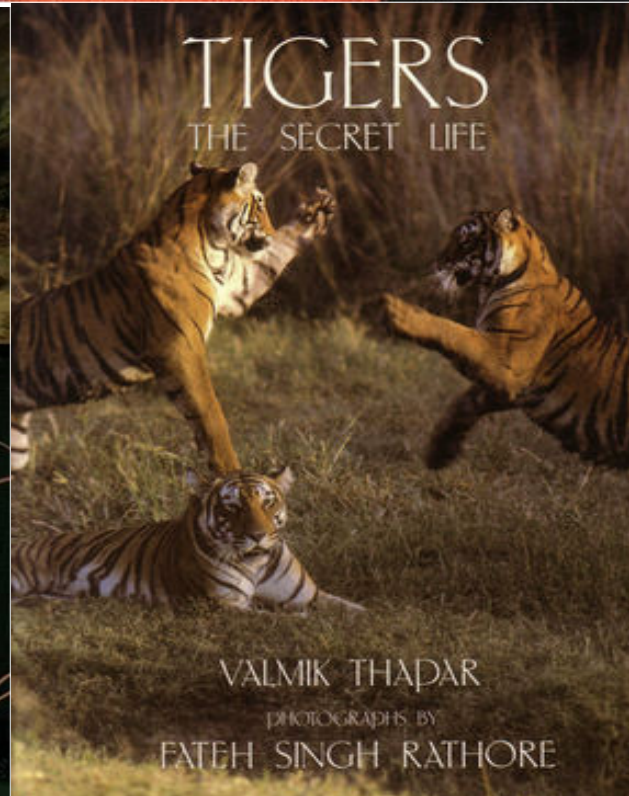
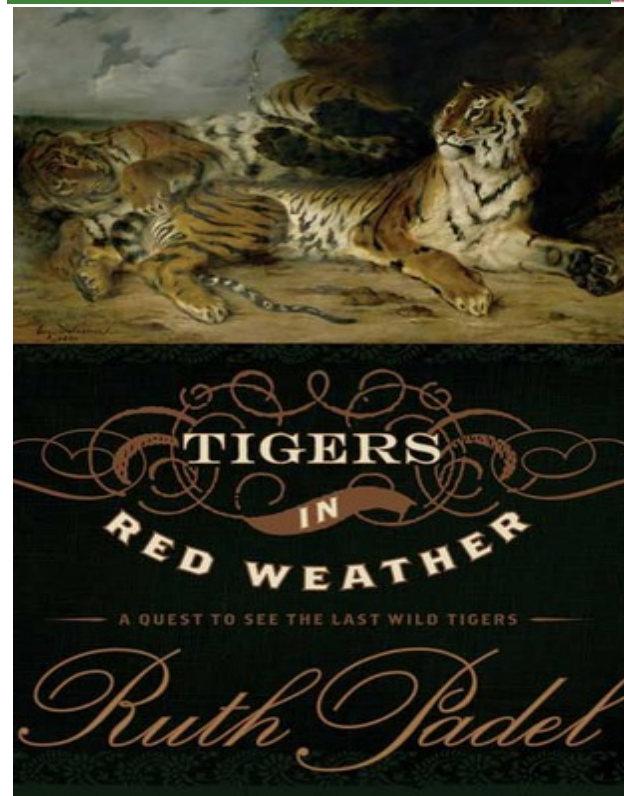
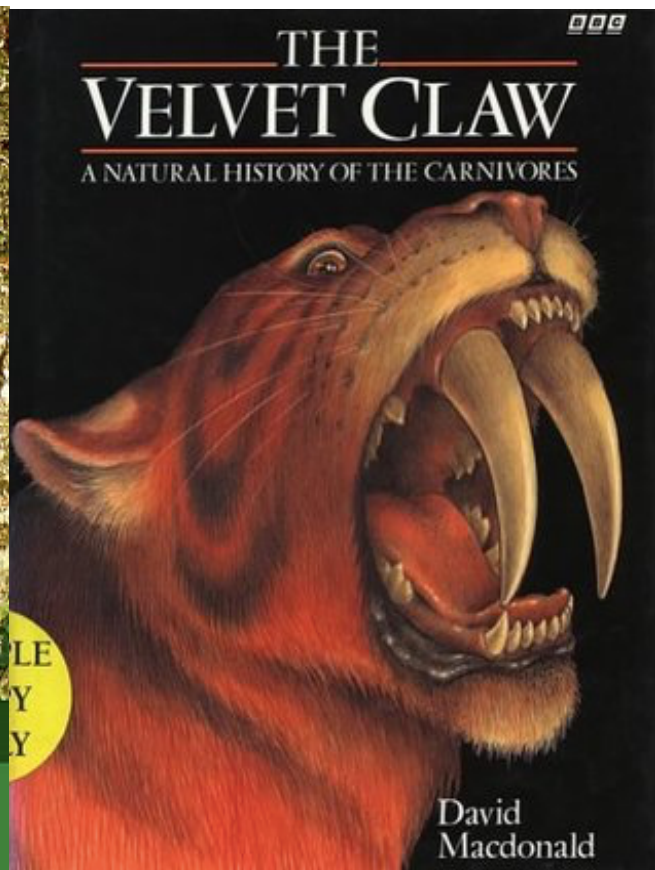
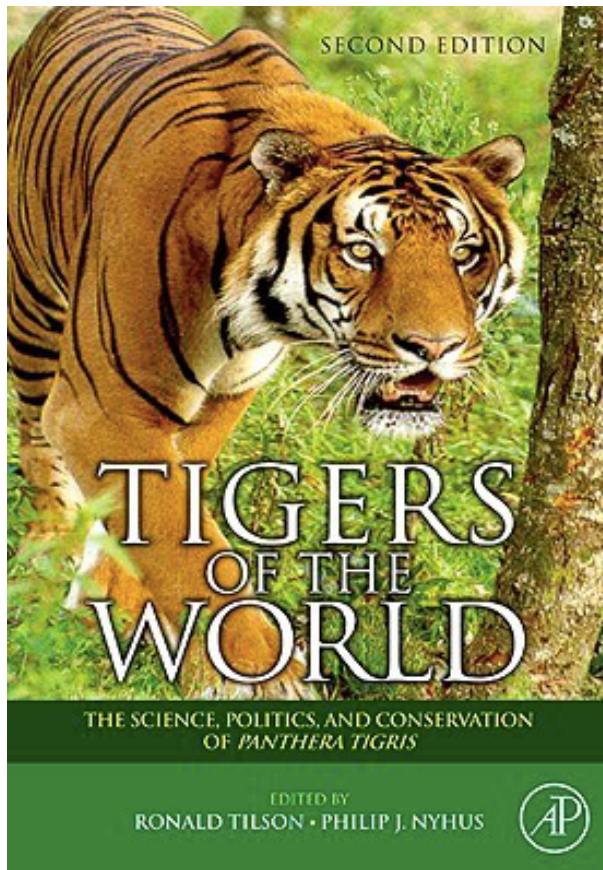


















## the author: Martina Nicolls

I am an author and aid development consultant with about 35 years' experience in the management, implementation, and evaluation of international programs, particularly in post-conflict environments, such as Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Darfur, Afghanistan, Kashmir, Pakistan, Iraq, Liberia, Georgia, Kosovo, and Sri Lanka, and also Mauritius, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia, Vietnam and Central Asia – Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekista – and others. I provide technical advice on areas such as peace-building and conflict mitigation, education, poverty reduction, human rights, child labour, human trafficking, and data quality.

But mostly I am a wanderer. Wherever I am and wherever I go, I take photographs and I write. My books include:

The Paris Residences of James Joyce  
(2019)  
Similar but Different in the Animal  
Kingdom (2017)  
A Mongolian Lament (2015)

The Komodo Verses (2012)  
Liberia's Dearest Ends (2012)  
Bardot's Comet (2011)  
Kashmir on a Knife-Edge (2010)  
The Sudan Curse (2009)

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