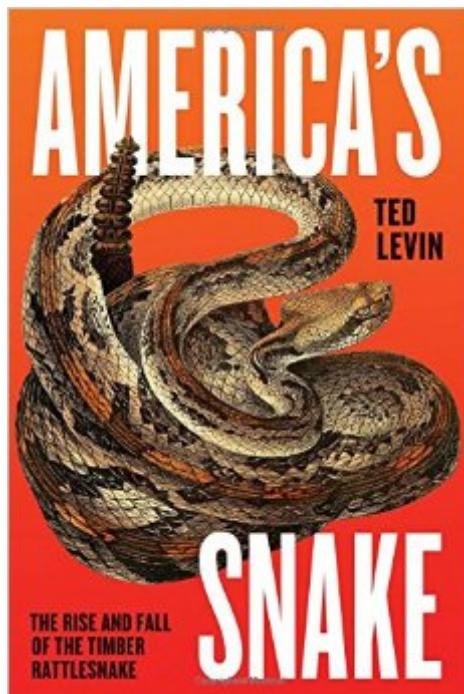


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America's Snake: The Rise And Fall Of The Timber Rattlesnake



Synopsis

There's no sound quite like it, or as viscerally terrifying: the ominous rattle of the timber rattlesnake. It's a chilling shorthand for imminent danger, and a reminder of the countless ways that nature can suddenly snuff us out. Yet most of us have never seen a timber rattler. Though they're found in thirty-one states, and near many major cities, in contemporary America timber rattlesnakes are creatures mostly of imagination and innate fear. Ted Levin aims to change that with America's Snake, a portrait of the timber rattlesnake, its place in America's pantheon of creatures and in our own frontier history and of the heroic efforts to protect it against habitat loss, climate change, and the human tendency to kill what we fear. Taking us from labs where the secrets of the snake's evolutionary history are being unlocked to far-flung habitats whose locations are fiercely protected by biologists and dedicated amateur herpetologists alike, Levin paints a picture of a fascinating creature: peaceable, social, long-lived, and, despite our phobias, not inclined to bite. The timber rattler emerges here as emblematic of America and also, unfortunately, of the complicated, painful struggles involved in protecting and preserving the natural world. A wonderful mix of natural history, travel writing, and exemplary journalism, America's Snake is loaded with remarkable characters none more so than the snake at its heart: frightening, perhaps; endangered, certainly; and unquestionably unforgettable.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Everything you ever wanted to know about timber rattlers and who doesn't want to know everything

there is to know. Great source of information and in an easy to read format. Scary subject but packed with tidbits of news.

I am a neighbor of Ted's in the Upper Connecticut River Valley and I always appreciate his thoughtful and interesting writing about natural history subjects. Though I may never meet up with a Timber Rattler in the wild, the book is still a compelling read. highly recommend it.

You can tell Levin loves these snakes- not since Tom Palmer's *Landscape with Reptile* (which Levin quotes a few times in this book) has someone written about *Crotalus* with such passion and expertise. Just as fascinating as Levin's journey into the world of the timber rattler is the cast of characters he meets along the way. Anyone who likes a bit of human drama in their natural history will love this book.

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