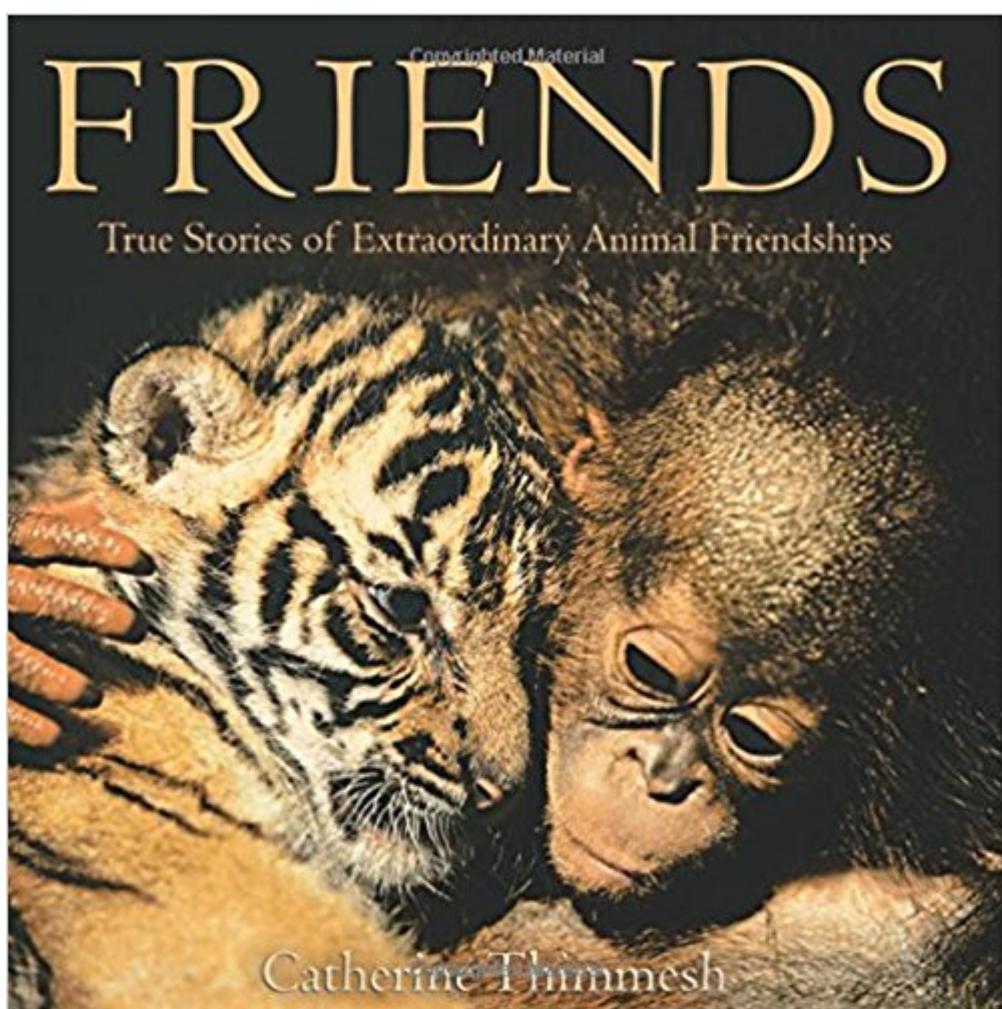


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# Friends: True Stories Of Extraordinary Animal Friendships



## Synopsis

What makes a camel friends with a Vietnamese pig? Or a wild polar bear pals with a sled dog? In this young preschool book, Catherine Thimmesh makes us wonder at the truth and mystery of unlikely animal friendships. Because the stories behind these friendships are true, not contrived, captured by photographers in many countries ranging from Siberia to Japan, they not only give readers insight into animals but challenge preconceived notions about compatibility. This book also expresses tolerance of differences and makes us look at the kindness of animals and humans a little differently.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 960 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers (May 23, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0547390106

ISBN-13: 978-0547390109

Product Dimensions: 9.5 x 0.4 x 9.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 67 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #142,227 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #105 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Lions, Tigers & Leopards #115 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Zoos #125 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Foxes & Wolves

Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

"Thimmesh uses a simple rhyming text and stellar color photos to celebrate unusual friendships...The photos radiate trust and warmth, and the text is soothing and reassuring." School Library Journal "Thimmesh hops on the cuteness bandwagon with this collection of 13 animal duos who met by chance and, for a time at least, showed mutual curiosity and affection." Booklist

Catherine Thimmesh is the award-winning author of many books for children, including *Team Moon*, winner of the Sibert Medal. Her books have received numerous starred reviews, appeared on best

books lists, and won many awards, including the IRA Children's Book Award and Minnesota Book Award. She lives in Minnesota with her family. Visit her online at [catherinethimmesh.com](http://catherinethimmesh.com). Â

All humans, read this, reflect and allow the generosity and unconditional love of these wonderful animals be models of what the world of humans could be like. These relationships could change the destiny of our conflicted planet and refocus our energies to respect and care for all living beings, no matter how many legs or wings or colors they may have. Fabulous reading, and a warm reminder of how simple love can heal so much pain and loss.

Endearing photos with sweet poems.

Be sure to read the reviews before purchasing, I found the "poetic" parts of this book are suitable for young children only. I found the low-level quality of the poetry detracted from the effect of the pictures and stories of connection. I love the somewhat older book that is primarily photographs: *Unlikely Friendships: 47 Remarkable Stories from the Animal Kingdom*. I've purchased countless numbers of this book and find it a treasure.

I ordered the book as a gift after seeing an interview with the author on the news. I like the photos and general content of the book and I recommend it to others. My only complaint (why 4 stars instead of 5) is that the book is only about 32 pages long... a fact I missed when I first ordered it. I had hoped for more material. Maybe there will be a another edition, with additional photos and descriptions.

The pictures in this book are very cute. In my opinion, the text was not edited well. Books for kids should have more direct sentences (not so many - and ;) and should NEVER start with "So" or "But". This is page 2 and it drove my 7-year-old crazy: No matter if one walks of four legs or two- a friend provides comfort when one's feeling blue. When the old orangutan at Zoo World in Florida lost her mate, she was listless and would barely eat. Workers worried that she might very well lose her will to live. So they brought a new companion - a stray tabby cat - to her enclosure; first just outside the fence, then in. The two became instant and inseparable friends. For nearly four years, Tonda the orangutan and TK the cat lived side by side - eating, playing, sleeping - until Tonda died of old age. But for four years, both were comforted and content. In this book, all but two of these "friendships" happened in a controlled environment like a zoo or animal hospital, and the text, as

above, describes when the caregivers had to separate the two for their own safety. There's nothing wrong with that, but a book full of mostly these kinds of friendships was a little disappointing. The two friendships that were not in a controlled environment (the basset hound and owl, and the frog letting the mouse hitch a ride to safety) were my kids favorites because they were truly unique. I have a picture of my childhood dog curled up with a raccoon. My kids love to look at that picture and I tell them the story of Rocky, the baby raccoon I found curled up in a feed can one morning when I went out to feed the horses. His eye was badly infected, so my Dad and I drove to the local CO-OP and bought some formula, a bottle, and some antibiotics for Rocky and within a few days he looked healthy and strong. We left his cage open that night figuring he would want to go find his family. Much to our surprise, he chose to spend his summer tagging along with us like one of the dogs but as curious and mischievous as one of the cats. As fall came, Rocky started to wander off more and more at night and eventually he stopped coming home in the morning. Every spring and summer for years after we would see Rocky stealing cat food and an occasional egg, but he had grown wild and didn't want to cuddle up with the dog or be pet anymore. It was fun while it lasted. I have always enjoyed animals and the way they find companions in sometimes unlikely ways, but this collection was just okay.

A truly amazing, wonderful book filled with TRUE stories for all ages to enjoy. Simply beautiful photos.

While it is great for children who are drawn to the warmth of the subject matter, this book also evokes a touching connection in adults to the beauty that lies beneath the surface of animals. It is more than just "Aawh. Isn't that cute" if one looks beneath the surface to see the thread that runs among animals..

This was purchased for my 90 year old aunt as well as my friend's grandchildren and both age group loved the book ! I enjoyed reading it and seeing the absolutely gorgeous photography . A real. Winner.

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