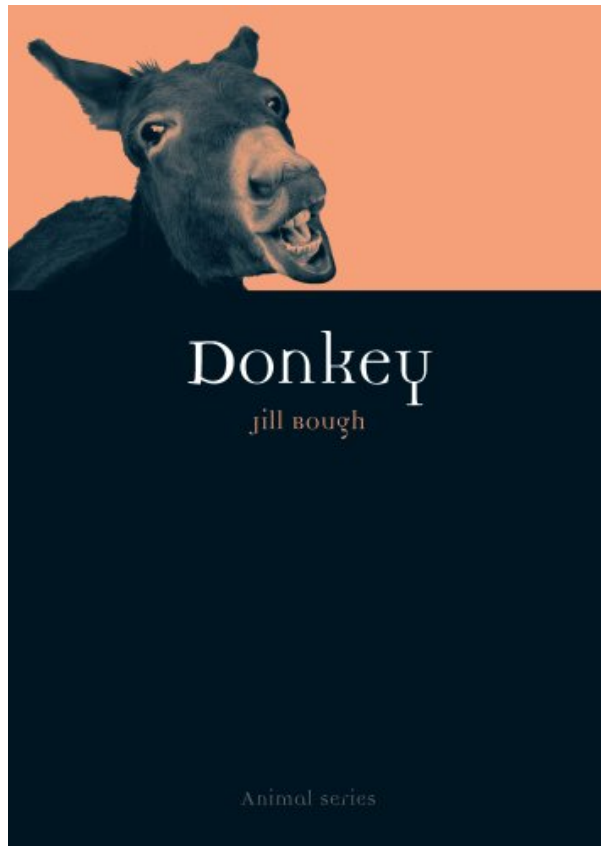
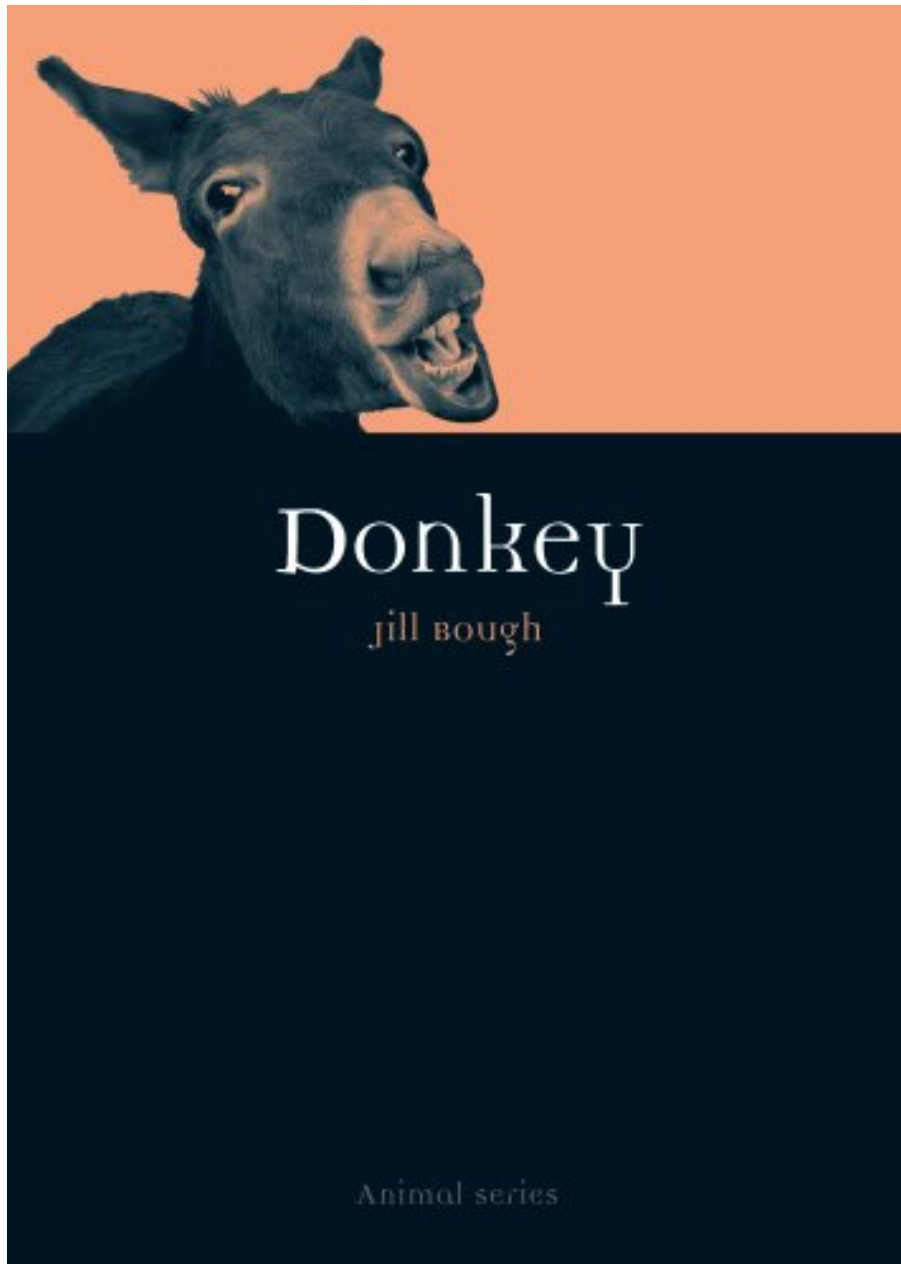


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Review

“The latest addition to Reaktion's animal series—surely one of the most successful publishing ventures of recent years—reveals the donkey, ‘generally considered beneath notice,’ to be a creature of the utmost fascination.”

(The Independent)

About the Author

Jill Bough is a Conjoint Academic in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Newcastle, NSW, Australia. She has published articles about the history of the donkey in Australian Zoologist (2006) and the Encyclopedia of Animal Rights and Animal Welfare (2009).

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From giving rides to children at the British seaside to pulling a plough in the poorest of countries, donkeys have served humans faithfully since the time of their domestication more than 10,000 years ago. Despite the critical role that they have played throughout human history, however, donkeys have often received little respect.

Donkey follows the story of this incredibly hard-working animal. Jill Bough reveals the animal's historic significance in Ancient Egypt where they were once highly regarded and even worshipped. However, this elevated status did not endure in Ancient Greece and Rome, where donkeys were denigrated, ridiculed and abused. Since this time, donkeys have continued to be associated with the poorest and most marginalized in human societies. Throughout the world, donkeys have been used for innumerable tasks: the main ones being as pack animals during times of peace and war, and to breed mules. Even today, donkeys are considered to be one of the best draught animals in third world countries, where they continue to make a vital contribution. Jill Bough goes beyond the practical uses of the animal by exploring a variety of social, cultural and religious meanings that the donkey has embodied, especially its symbolic representations in Western literature and art. The story of the donkey makes an important addition to the complex and contradictory history of human and non-human animal relationships. With accounts that are both fascinating and touching, this book will be ideal for anyone with an admiration of the donkey or who is interested by animals in history.

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Waiting is one of the great arts...

By Jenny Lee Bates

The quote from Margery Allingham as my title of this review says it all for this book. As a writer, poet,

lecturer, artist and lover of Donkeys and Mules, as well as a collector of Donkey books, I have waited a long time for Jill. She has put the 'real' Donkey into perspective, and you find yourself never giving up in anticipation of her next chapter. The truth about this animal of infinite grace has been waiting...and that's exactly when the magic happens. Jill Bough is hopeful, optimistic, philosophical and edgy (and I mean this in a brave way) about these equines. The first paragraph one reads gets to the heart of the Donkey quickly..."He can live without man. But man can scarcely do without the labour, the sacrifice, the suffering of the donkey...that has accompanied man since the dawn of time, in all weathers, humbly and patiently serving the most brutal of all animals." The book also includes beautiful art and photographs, further enhancing this precious animal's intertwined history with man. When you begin this book, you get a sense of what George Sand once said, "One knows what one has lost, but not what one may find". I say, may you find yourself, dispel and dismantle any hard held illusions, and fall in love.

Jenny L. Bates

author, "Opening Doors: An equilog of poetry about Donkeys"

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

good background

By Rosemary A. Gordon

This presents the history of donkeys in a different way than your general "horse" book. It is easy to read, well illustrated and I learned a few things I did not know about donkeys....and I have several. This is a good book for the donkey owner's library.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

begetting a historical account from a beast of burden

By Pen Name

My reveiw of this book is its excellent historical account to this very beautiful animal. I enjoyed. The learning of this creature and how the author tied historically how man benifitted from the donkey culturally, econmically as well as spiritually.

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