

NIC BISHOP



is the acclaimed photographer and author of more than sixty books for children, including *Red-Eyed Tree Frog* (written by Joy Cowley) and the much-lauded Nic Bishop Animals series. He is a three-time recipient of the American Library Association's Robert F. Sibert Honor Award for *Nic Bishop Spiders*, *Quest for the Tree Kangaroo* (written by Sy Montgomery), and *The Tarantula Scientist* (written by Sy Montgomery). He has also received the Orbis Pictus Award, two Orbis Pictus Honor Awards, and the *Boston Globe-Horn Book Award*, among numerous others.

Nic was born in England and raised in Bangladesh, Sudan, and Papua New Guinea. He graduated with honors in biology from Nottingham University, England, and then traveled across Europe, Asia, and Australia, to New Zealand, where he completed a PhD at Canterbury University. Nic has been likened to a David Attenborough for kids, and he has the adventurous spirit of an Indiana Jones. His work as a photographer has taken him to the farthest corners of the planet. He has trekked into the remote cloud forests of New Guinea, dodged ice avalanches in New Zealand, and crossed the Gobi Desert of Mongolia. He has also had many adventures and amusing animal encounters at home, where his guest bedroom often accommodates tarantulas, snakes, and chameleons. Once he built a rainforest pond indoors to photograph basilisk lizards running on water.

Nic began his publishing career by writing and photographing natural history books for adults. "But it became evident that young readers liked some of my photographs," says Nic, "especially my close-up pictures of animals like frogs, insects, and spiders. I had never considered writing children's books, but my publisher explained how some children do not respond well to fiction books and without access to good nonfiction their reading can languish. This rang true with me. I remembered being given fiction books in my early school years that I simply had no interest in reading. As a result my interest in reading suffered until my teenage years, when I discovered nonfiction."

Nic switched from adult to children's books and has not looked back. "They are just so much more fun to create than adult books," he says.

Nic Bishop lives with his wife in Michigan. Visit him online at www.nicbishop.com.

BOOKS BY NIC BISHOP

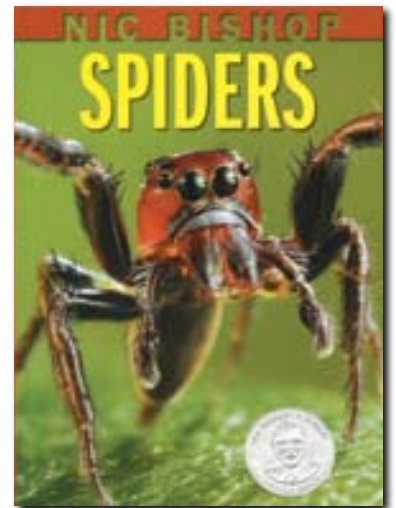
Stunning photos and engaging text present both basic information and fun, quirky facts. Each book also contains an essay describing how the photos were taken, plus an index and glossary. Each: Ages 4–8 • 48 pages • \$17.99

NIC BISHOP SPIDERS

An ALA Sibert Honor Book

An NCTE Orbis Pictus Honor Book

- ★ "Dazzling full-color close-ups provide eye-catching visuals from cover to cover."
—*School Library Journal*, starred review
 - ★ "Packed with astonishing facts...the details are riveting. Readers older and younger than the target audience will be enthralled, too."
—*Booklist*, starred review
- Hardcover • 978-0-439-87756-5

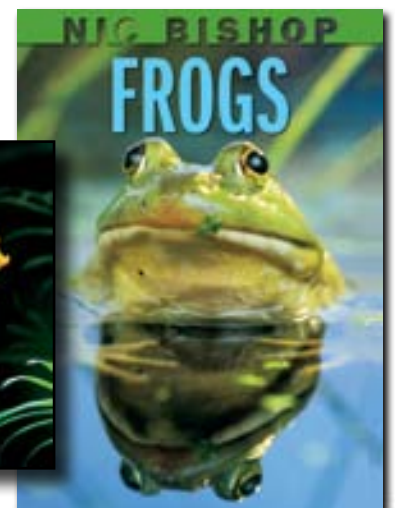


NIC BISHOP FROGS

A Boston Globe-Horn Book Honor Book

An ALA Notable Children's Book

- ★ "Stupendous photographs combine with a genuinely enthusiastic text to open readers' eyes to this lowly amphibian like nothing has before."—*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review
 - ★ "Irresistible."—*The Horn Book*, starred review
- Hardcover • 978-0-439-87755-8

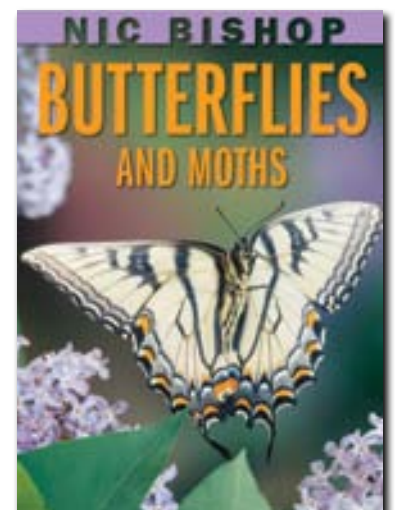


NIC BISHOP BUTTERFLIES AND MOTHS

A Booklist Editors' Choice

A School Library Journal Best Book of the Year

- ★ "This excellent book provides an eye-opening introduction to a seemingly familiar subject."—*Booklist*, starred review
 - ★ "Information-packed prose that shimmers like butterfly wings."—*School Library Journal*, starred review
- Hardcover • 978-0-439-87757-2

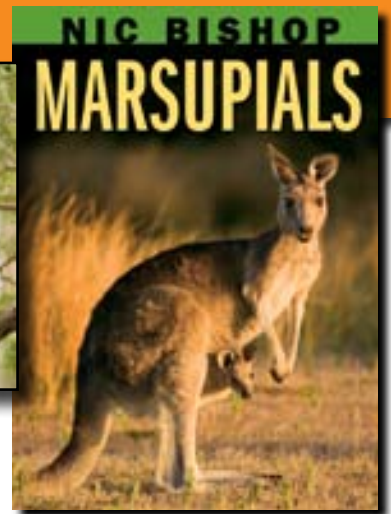


NIC BISHOP MARSUPIALS

An IRA Teachers' Choice

- ★ "This inviting title pairs some remarkable photos with a wealth of intriguing facts."
—*Booklist*, starred review
- ★ "Full of the exceptional-quality photographs and enticing facts that readers have come to expect from Bishop."
—*School Library Journal*, starred review

Hardcover · 978-0-439-87758-9



NIC BISHOP LIZARDS

- ★ "Spectacular...the information is top-rate...brilliant."
—*The Horn Book*, starred review
- ★ "Another amazing must-have title."
—*School Library Journal*, starred review

Hardcover · 978-0-545-20634-1



RED-EYED TREE FROG Written by Joy Cowley

A Boston Globe-Horn Book Award Winner

An ALA Notable Children's Book

Booklist Editors' Choice

A CBC/NSTA Outstanding Science Trade Book for Children



- ★ "Stunning color photographs and a gripping interactive text."
—*Booklist*, starred review
- ★ "The engaging narrative and captivating pictures are perfectly attuned to the preschool audience."
—*The Horn Book*, starred review

Ages 4-8 · 32 pages

Hardcover · 978-0-590-87175-4 · \$16.99

Paperback · 978-0-439-78221-0 · \$6.99

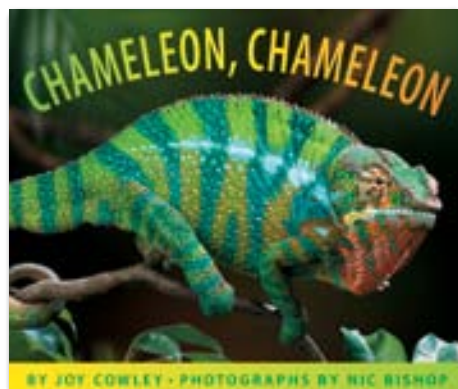
CHAMELEON, CHAMELEON Written by Joy Cowley

- ★ "An informative, thoughtfully produced science book."
—*Booklist*, starred review

"Bishop's gorgeous photographs invest their subject with enormous character...a satisfying nonfiction adventure for very young children."
—*Kirkus Reviews*

Ages 4-8 · 32 pages

Hardcover · 978-0-439-66653-4 · \$16.95



AN INTERVIEW WITH NIC BISHOP

As a child you lived quite an exotic life. How did your upbringing influence your love of animals?

As a child you tend to accept the life you were born into, as if it were nothing special. It's only in hindsight that I realize how lucky I was. Living in Bangladesh, the Sudan, and New Guinea, I grew up being used to geckos climbing my bedroom walls, jackals running past my window, flocks of parrots in the garden, and the occasional tiger or snake that would drop by at night. I discovered early just how rich the natural world is. It was all around me. Even homework projects were an adventure. For example, when I was fourteen I did a project in our garden on a spider that nobody had ever studied before. That childhood sense of wonder at the world is something that I have tried to hold on to in adulthood.

When did you first become interested in photography? Have you had formal training, or did you simply learn as you went along?

I picked up my first camera when I was about nine years old, and it quickly became a hobby. But it wasn't till I was thirty that I decided to pursue it professionally. I just picked things up by trial and error, and firsthand experience. Most of my twenties were spent hiking and mountaineering in New Zealand's Southern Alps, and I always carried a camera, tripod, lenses, and other things. At first I'd just take record shots of a trip. But eventually I tried to take photographs that really did justice to the amazing places I visited. In the end, photography became the reason behind each hiking trip. If I did seek guidance, then it was by looking at photo-essay type books by other photographers. I tried to analyze them, figuring out the equipment they used, what gave them power. It's amazing how much you can learn this way.

When photographing the Animals series, do you work on your own or with other people? Do you plan out your trips in advance?

For all of these books, I work on my own. First, I prepare a list of the animals that I want to photograph. Then I steadily check the list off. Some people think that I wander around and just bump into my animal subjects in a sort of random fashion. But each animal photograph is planned and can take weeks to complete. Photographing a wild animal, for example, takes a lot of research and traveling in order to find a suitable location. I need to find a place where the animal is reliably common, reasonably approachable, and with a scenic landscape as backdrop. Then I have to visit the same spot repeatedly, getting to know the subject in order to photograph it. Ultimately, you never know what's going to happen. You just hope you'll get the shot!