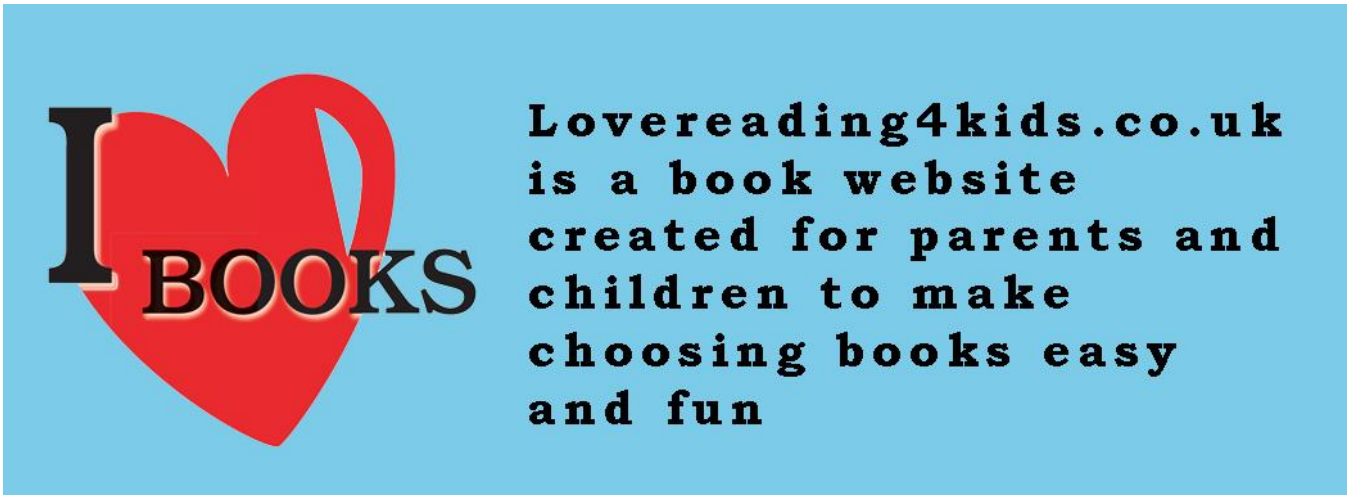


Opening extract from

100 Most Feared Creatures

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Anna Claybourne

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100 MOST FEARED CREATURES



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FEARSOME CREATURES

Watch out! The world is full of scary creatures that can sting, bite, poison, ram, or trample you if you annoy them or just get too close. They could be tiny, like the bullet ant, with its nightmarishly painful sting, or huge, like a charging elephant. Deadly animals live in all kinds of places, from the bottom of the sea to the attic of your house. Some even survive by burrowing inside you and munching on parts of your body!



Ahhhhhh! Help!

Don't worry too much! The good news is, most of these dangerous beasts will leave *you* alone if you leave *them* alone. They mainly live in faraway places, or safely tucked away in zoos. Luckily, there are medical treatments for most types of dangerous animal bites and stings.



STAY SAFE ★

It makes sense to be careful and stay a safe distance from creatures. Never chase, tease, bother, or try to pick up animals you find in the wild, especially things like snakes and scorpions—as if you would! You should never try to eat any kind of wild living thing either; plant or animal. And if anything ever does bite or sting you, see a doctor immediately.



HOW SCARY?

Each fearsome creature in this book has its own scariness rating, like this:

- Doesn't scare me!
- Watch out. Could be scarier than it looks.
- Prepare for a scare!
- Seriously scary.
- Be afraid. Be VERY afraid!

VIPERS

There are more than 200 types, or species, of vipers, and they're all scarily venomous. With their long, sharp fangs and powerful bodies, most of them can bite fast and hard.



5

GABOON VIPER

HOW SCARY?

LENGTH: 4–7 feet (1.2–2.2 m)

DEADLY WEAPONS: Fangs up to 2 inches (5 cm)—the longest of any venomous snake.

SCARY SKILLS: Can swivel its eyes around to look in different directions.

4

RATTLESNAKE



LENGTH: 3–8 feet (1–2.4 m)

DEADLY WEAPONS: Powerful venom that eats away at flesh. Yuck!

SCARY SKILLS: Uses the rings of dried skin on its tail to make a spooky rattling sound as a warning.

HOW SCARY?



3

PUFF ADDER

HOW SCARY?

LENGTH: 3–5 feet (1–1.5 m)

DEADLY WEAPONS: Extra-long fangs that can inject deep into the skin.

SCARY SKILLS: Can inflate and puff up its body to look even scarier.

2

TERCIOPELO



LENGTH: 4–7 feet (1.2–2 m)

DEADLY WEAPONS: Like most vipers, the terciopelo has heat-sensing pits on its face that can detect prey by their body heat.

SCARY SKILLS: Most snakes flee from danger, but the terciopelo is known to stand its ground and attack people!

HOW SCARY?

RUSSELL'S VIPER

1

The brown, spotted Asian Russell's viper lives in farmers' fields, where people often disturb or step on it by mistake. When it bites, its venom causes terrible pain, swelling, and bleeding all over the body. Yikes! Medicine can save you, but many victims live too far from a hospital to get there in time.

LENGTH: 3–5.5 feet (1–1.6 m)

DEADLY WEAPONS: Powerful jaws that clamp tight and hang on after biting.

SCARY SKILLS: Can strike with so much speed and energy that it almost leaps into the air!

HOW SCARY?

KILLER FACT ★

Vipers can fold their venom-injecting fangs flat when they're not needed, then flick them forward in the blink of an eye—ready to strike.

COBRAS

Rearing up, swaying from side to side, and spreading out their necks into wide "hoods," cobras are well-known and widely feared in Asia and Africa, where they live.

5

FOREST COBRA

LENGTH: 4.9–9.8 feet (1.5–3 m)

DEADLY WEAPONS: Aggressive attitude and very toxic venom.

SCARY SKILLS: Unusually adaptable; can live in towns and climb trees.

HOW SCARY?

4

KING COBRA

LENGTH: 8–18 feet (2.4–5.5 m)

DEADLY WEAPONS: Its huge size—this is the longest venomous snake in the entire world.

SCARY SKILLS: Its hiss makes a frightening growling noise!

HOW SCARY?

3

GIANT SPITTING COBRA

LENGTH: Around 9 feet (2.7 m)

DEADLY WEAPONS: Large venom glands that can inject a massive dose of deadly poison.

SCARY SKILLS: Can shoot a jet of blinding venom into enemies' eyes.

HOW SCARY?

2

PHILIPPINE COBRA

LENGTH: 3–5.2 feet (1–1.6 m)

DEADLY WEAPONS: Deadliest venom of any cobra, causing paralysis and breathing problems within 30 minutes.

SCARY SKILLS: Can spit venom accurately a distance of up to 10 feet (3 m) away!

HOW SCARY?

1

SPECTACLED COBRA

Also called the Indian cobra, this snake is one of the most famous and feared in all of Asia. Thousands of people are bitten each year. Its venom acts so fast—stopping the heartbeat or the ability to breathe—that many don't survive.

LENGTH: 5–8 feet (1.5–2.4 m)

DEADLY WEAPONS: Killer venom and a bold attitude.

SCARY SKILLS: Spreads its "hood" to reveal spectacle-like markings on the back of its neck.

HOW SCARY?

KILLER FACT ★

Cobras spread out their "hoods" by flattening out the rib bones in their necks. Unlike humans and most other animals, snakes have ribs all the way down their bodies.

SEA SNAKES

Did you know that some snakes live in the sea? They have flattened bodies and tails to help them swim, and deadly venom for attacking prey.



5

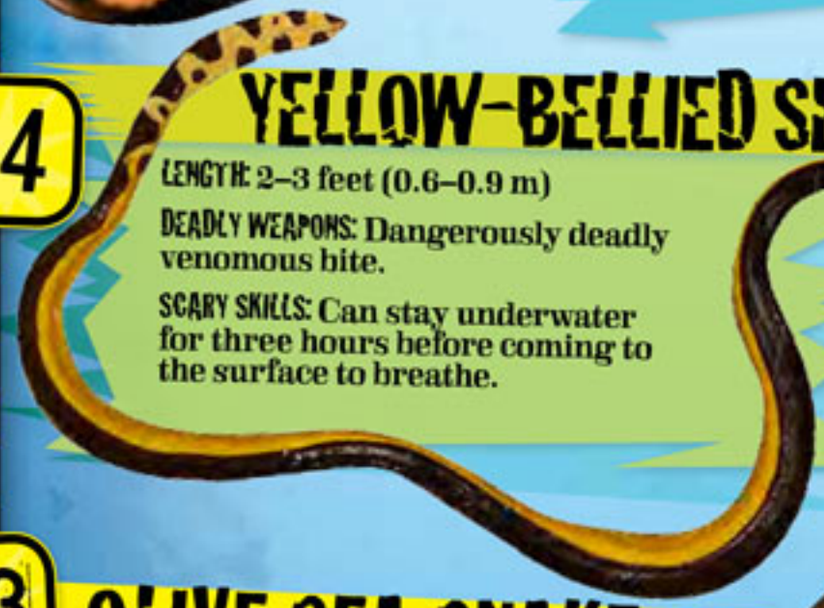
BANDED SEA KRAIT

HOW SCARY?

LENGTH: 2–5 feet (0.6–1.5 m)

DEADLY WEAPONS: Extremely deadly venom, though it rarely bites.

SCARY SKILLS: Wath out—this sea snake also comes ashore and climbs trees!



4

YELLOW-BELLIED SEA SNAKE

LENGTH: 2–3 feet (0.6–0.9 m)

DEADLY WEAPONS: Dangerously deadly venomous bite.

SCARY SKILLS: Can stay underwater for three hours before coming to the surface to breathe.

HOW SCARY?



3

OLIVE SEA SNAKE

LENGTH: 3–5 feet (0.9–1.6 m)

DEADLY WEAPONS: Its sharp fangs are the longest of all the sea snakes and can even bite through a wet suit.

SCARY SKILLS: Its tail can detect light, like an eye, but experts don't know what this is for!

HOW SCARY?



2

STOKES' SEA SNAKE

LENGTH: 4–6 feet (1.2–1.8 m)

DEADLY WEAPONS: Big, bulky body gives it lots of strength.

SCARY SKILLS: Wraps itself around victims and holds on tight while biting them.

HOW SCARY?

1

BEAKED SEA SNAKE

Most sea snakes are naturally shy, but the beaked sea snake is bad tempered and aggressive. When it gets annoyed, it doesn't swim away, it attacks. That's unlucky, because the venom in just one bite of this sea snake is powerful enough to kill more than 50 people!

LENGTH: 2–5 feet (0.6–1.5 m)

DEADLY WEAPONS: Venom that experts believe is the most toxic of any sea snake.

SCARY SKILLS: Hides by lurking in shallow, muddy water near the shore.

HOW SCARY?

KILLER FACT ★

Sea snakes have thin, breakable fangs. If one bites you, its fangs can snap off and get stuck in your skin. Ouch!