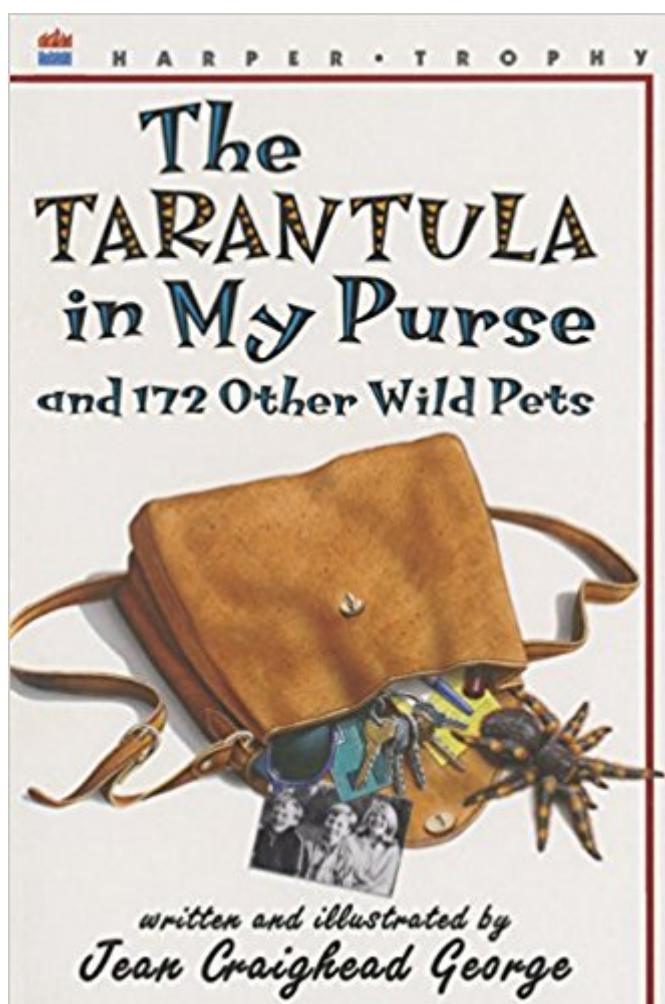


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# The Tarantula In My Purse: And 172 Other Wild Pets



## **Synopsis**

Humorous, heart-warming, and just plain entertaining, these stories by Newbery Medalist Jean Craighead George recall what life was like as she raised three children and 173 wild pets. On any given day there might be a bat in the refrigerator, an owl in the shower, or a crow at the kitchen table. Jean Craighead George's respect for nature and its many creatures is evident in all of her writing. Here, she offers a personal, firsthand account of the many animals that made their way into her life and her books. 1996 "Pick of the Lists" (ABA)1996 Children's Books (NY Public Library)

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 830L (What's this?)

Paperback: 144 pages

Publisher: HarperCollins; Reprint edition (August 2, 1997)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0064462013

ISBN-13: 978-0064462013

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.3 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 27 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #56,433 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #27 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Literary #34 in Books > Science & Math > Biological Sciences > Animals > Wildlife #66 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Science & Technology

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## **Customer Reviews**

Jean Craighead George deserves to be ranked among the great children's writers of our time. Of her previous books, Julie of the Wolves won a Newbery Medal and My Side of the Mountain is one of the most thrilling and engaging books ever written for kids. The Tarantula in My Purse is a memoir of sorts, telling the tales of the various animals that have passed through George's house, from "The Screech Owl Who Liked Television" to "The Goose and the Duck Who Were Arrested for Disturbing the Peace." --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

What kind of mother keeps bats in the refrigerator, leaves the windows open so wild crows can fly

into the house and doesn't flinch at tarantulas? A mother like Newbery Medalist George (Julie of the Wolves). In this true story about the orphaned animals her family raised and released (they had a permit for wild animal care), she uses her novelist's skill and humor in recounting the escapades of Crowbar, the clever family crow; of Yammer, a screech owl who liked to watch Road Runner cartoons; and of Goose and Duck, who loved riding in the car so much that they once flew into a police cruiser (and got arrested for disturbing the peace). Following tales of domestic delight amid the menagerie of crawfish, boas, wolverines, raccoons, mice and falcons, an epilogue describes the animal-related careers George's grown children now have. It's a one-of-a-kind lesson in living with nature in a far more literal sense than most people ever would undertake, endearingly told. Ages 8-12. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

As a mom, I made sure my four kids read this book. The chapters were short. It was interesting and it was written for boys as well as girls. But recently I bought this book for my 88 year old mother. Although she used to be an avid reader, most books are too complex now. There are too many characters, and the story line is usually too complex. But this book really was perfect. George never talks down to the reader, so the stories never seemed childish. Mom not only enjoyed reading, she gained insight on the different animals and wanted to discuss them! This book transcends any gender or age boundaries.

This Newbery-winner whose recognized books (My Side of the Mountain and Julie of the Wolves) I have read and appreciated greatly, has something very different here. Each chapter is a vignette about one or more of the wild animals that have come into her home for raising. There are some interesting and fascinating goings-on, some animals one wouldn't normally think of as domestic, and lots of good basic scientific information about a number of them. The crows alone are much more dynamic than one would have reason to expect. This is accessible, completely pleasurable for a reader from chapter books on up. For a youngster whose attention span is more suited toward these short stories/chapters, a fun read about animals, family, freedom, wild vs. domestic, and so on. Recommended warmly.

My daughter has this book and has always enjoyed it. Bought it for a friend's grandson, because he's really into animals.

Love this author and this book. It's very simple to understand and keeps my little people interested and laughing.

Bought this book to read to my son! Great stories that he really enjoyed. Highly recommend!

I bought this book because I knew that it included a chapter on a pet owl, and we were expecting to get an owl soon for my daughter. The whole thing was charming. I envy how she grew up surrounded by animal life, and how her kids too made every kind of animal, wild and domestic, part of their lives.

Great book! I love it, my 8 year old loves it, and my 3 year old loves it!

Great for 5th graders

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Comprehensive Information on Care, Housing, and Feeding Tarantula vs. Scorpion (Who Would Win?) Tarantula Keeper's Guide, 2nd ed.

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