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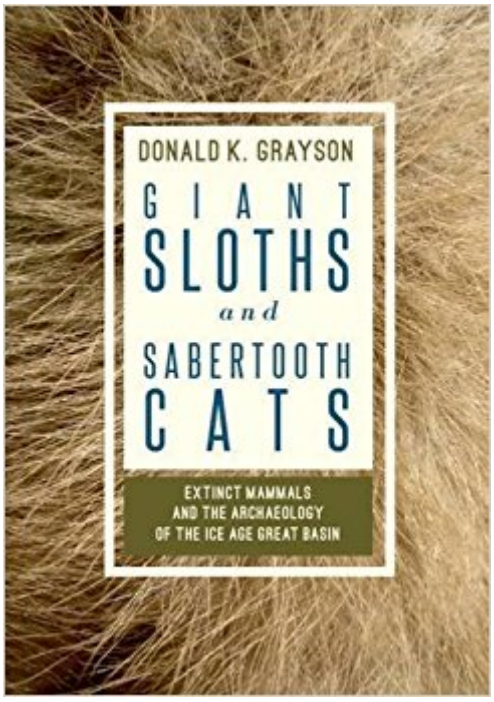
Giant Sloths And Sabertooth Cats: Archaeology Of The Ice Age Great Basin



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Synopsis

As the Ice Age came to an end, North America lost a stunning variety of animals. Mammoths, mastodon, llamas, ground-dwelling sloths the size of elephants, beavers the size of bears, pronghorn antelope the size of poodles, and carnivores to chase themÃ¢â ¬â •sabertooth cats, dire wolves, American lions and cheetahs; these and many more were gone by 10,000 years ago.Ã Â Giant Sloths and Sabertooth Cats surveys all these animals, with a particular focus on the Great Basin. The book also explores the major attempts to explain the extinctions. Because some believe that they were due to the activities of human hunters, the author also reviews the archaeological evidence left by the earliest known human occupants of the Great Basin, showing that people were here at the same time and in the same places as many of the extinct animals.Ã Â Ã Â Were these animals abundant in the Great Basin? A detailed analysis of the distinctive assemblages of plants that now live in this region leads to a surprising, and perhaps controversial, conclusion about those abundances.Ã Â Ã Â If you are interested in Ice Age mammals or in the Ice Age archaeology of North America, if you are interested in the natural history of the Great Basin or the ways in which the plants of todayÃ¢â ¬â„¢s landscapes might be used to understand the deeper past, you will be fascinated by this book. Ã Â

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Customer Reviews

Ã¢â ¬Å“A remarkable and personal account. Grayson brings to life this enthralling menagerie of strange beastsÃ¢â ¬â •their relationships, distributions, habits, and chronologyÃ¢â ¬â •while highlighting the fascinating history of how we have learned about them. Hugely informative and

entertaining, a pleasure to read and think about.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •David E. Rhode, research professor of archaeology, Desert Research Institute, Reno, Nevada"This is an excellent and easily read account of the Ice Age fauna of the Great Basin.Ã Â It is one of the best at relating the large animals to the vegetation and physical environment of that time and the changes that followed the climate change at the end ofÃ Â the Ice Age.Ã Â Its discussion of the extinction event, its timing and possible causes, should be read by all scientists working in that area.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •Ernest Lundelius, Jr., Professor Emeritus of Vertebrate Paleontology, University of Texas at Austin

Donald K. Grayson is a professor in the Department of Anthropology and the Quaternary Research Center at the University of Washington. He is a recipient of the Nevada Medal for scientific achievement and a member of the National Academy of Sciences. His publications include The DesertÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Past and The Great Basin: A Natural Prehistory.

Full of wit, opens up areas of research I had no idea existed, and clearly demonstrates that we simply do not know enough, do not have the samples required, and are dealing with issues so complex that a clean explanatory model is not in the works. This is an introduction on HOW TO THINK (developed through a somewhat esoteric subject) as much as a book about extinction. I enjoyed it. Buy and read this book.

Surprise. This work is a wonder for lay person & scientist alike. Numerous diagrams, maps & Illustrations intersperse the text. Not only does the author describe the history of the natural philosophy of his subject, but he gives the reasons for the thought behind each scientist’s observations.This book was worth waiting for. If you have ever wondered about extinct animals you need this background.L.J.

I always enjoy reading Grayson’s books and this one is no exception. Not only is he well informed and concise he tosses in a bit of humor to make reading fun. This book has a lot of great information on Ice Age animals and habitat. Giant Sloths and Sabertooth Cats makes the perfect companion book for Grayson’s The Desert’s Past.

Great for lovers of post Mesozoic life.

Great read. Lots of information on the subject material.

Husband loves the book!

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