

Melanie Challenger

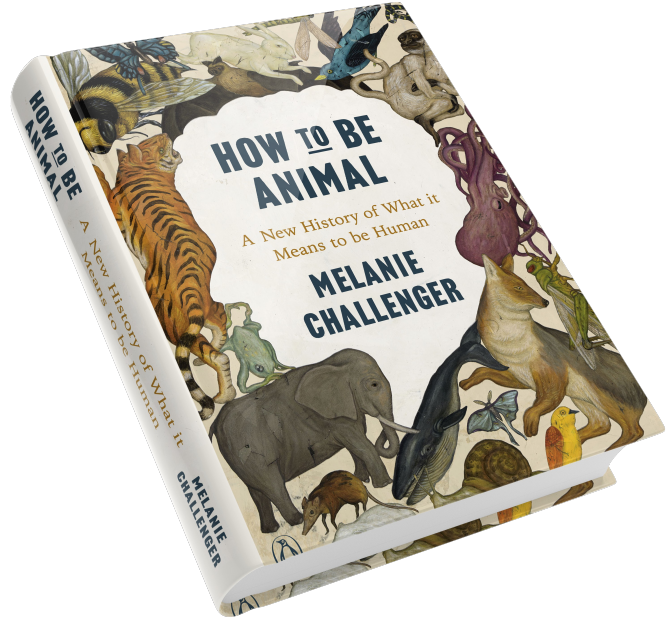
NATURE, HISTORY & US

How to Be Animal

A New History of What it Means to Be Human

“The best critique of the myth of human exceptionalism I have read... Read and digest this book, and you will not only be wiser but also happier.”

— JOHN GRAY, author of *Straw Dogs: Thoughts on Humans and Other Animals*



Humans are the most inquisitive, emotional, imaginative, aggressive and baffling animals on the planet, but how well do we really know ourselves? *How to Be Animal* will rewrite the remarkable human story and argue that at the heart of our psychology is a profound struggle with being animal. As well as piecing together the mystery of how this psychology evolved, the book examines the wide-reaching ways in which it affects our lives, from our politics to the ways we distance ourselves from other species.

A blend of natural and environmental history, and philosophy, *How To Be Animal* will take in our ancient past and bring us into a near future of artificial intelligence and bioengineered life. It is a book for anyone who's ever puzzled about the meaning of human existence and the wide variety of views on what life is and how it matters.

*Melanie Challenger works as a researcher and broadcaster on the history of humanity and the natural world, and on environmental philosophy. She is the author of **On Extinction: How We Became Estranged from Nature** and **How to Be Animal: What it means to be human**. She received a Darwin Now Award for her research in the Canadian Arctic and the Arts Council International Fellowship with the British Antarctic Survey for her work on the history of whaling. Challenger is the host of the “Enter the Psychosphere” podcast, on intelligence in nature. She regularly works in bioethics and is the Deputy Co-Chair of the Nuffield Council. She lives with her family in England.*

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