

The Jane Effect: Celebrating Jane Goodall

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If Tarzan and Jane Goodall met for a drink at an eco resort in Ghana, would he have the good sense to shower first, and then thank her for putting Africa, conservation issues, and humane animal research on the map for hundreds of millions of people? Would she have the good humor to needle him about his king-of-the-jungle schtick?

The Jane Effect does Goodall the service of skipping the dry recitation of her career exploits and, instead, offering heartfelt, two-page testimonials from one hundred of her friends, colleagues, and students. They paint her as an impossibly kind, generous, intelligent human being and a scientist of the highest order.

Divided into eight sections—Jane as Friend, Jane as Colleague, Partner, Professor, Naturalist, Exemplar, Visionary, and Inspiration—the common thread between all the essays is Jane as life changer.

Most gratifying is to imagine eighty-year-old Jane, misty eyed, reading this ultimate tribute herself.

MATT SUTHERLAND (Spring 2015)

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