

# Counting Lions



## Counting Lions: Portraits from the Wild

*Katie Cotton , Stephen Walton (Illustrations)*

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**Counting Lions: Portraits from the Wild** Katie Cotton , Stephen Walton (Illustrations)

**A spectacular, visually stunning celebration of wildlife—and gentle counting book—that can be enjoyed by the entire family.**

Exquisite charcoal drawings of ten endangered creatures—lions, elephants, giraffes, pandas, tigers, chimpanzees, penguins, turtles, macaws, and zebras—startle the viewer with their size and astonishing detail. A poetic text notes each creature's particular qualities and behavior, while providing a quiet counting exercise and a reminder that these animals must be cherished and protected.

## Counting Lions: Portraits from the Wild Details

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Author : Katie Cotton , Stephen Walton (Illustrations)

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# From Reader Review Counting Lions: Portraits from the Wild for online ebook

## Fiona Hill says

Gorgeous and incredible black and white illustrations, showing children some of earth's most magnificent animals that are greatly endangered. The end of the book discusses why each of these animals are endangered and why we must protect them.

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## Nancy Kotkin says

A children's counting book with an agenda, but this picture book also doubles as a coffee table book. The animals are described in more detail at the back of the book, along with their IUCN status (i.e. how endangered they are). There is also a brief list of conservation organizations on the last page. Stunning black and white drawings of the animals look so real that you feel like you could reach into the book and pet them.

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## Tasha says

Counting one by one, this book tells the story of ten endangered and threatened animals. It begins with the lion on the cover, solitary and watching the savanna. Two gorillas are next, a mother and child, breathing the same breath together. The book moves on, each creature captured in captivating and brief verse that speaks to their way of life and the behaviors they exhibit. Each one is accompanied by a photo-realistic charcoal drawing that is haunting and incredibly detailed.

Cotton's verse is profoundly lovely, managing to show each creature as an individual and give voice to their relevance and stature. The tigress and her cubs is a "warrior of the forest" while the macaws are "a colorful, fluttering explosion" and the giraffes are "peaceful patterned giants." Each short verse will have readers seeing these animals in a new way, entranced by their beauty.

The illustrations are simply phenomenal. They are charcoal but with such detail that you can see the individual hairs in the lion's mane, the each feather on the penguins, and every wrinkle of the elephants' skin. Beautiful and powerful, these illustrations are a striking way to introduce these creatures.

A stunningly gorgeous book, the verse and illustrations marry to create a story of the threatened creatures of our world. Appropriate for ages 5-7.

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## Earl says

If you think this is a beautiful book already based on the cover alone, you are absolutely correct. Large charcoal illustrations capture the majesty of the ten animals featured. Not only is it a counting book but it is also a reminder the dangers these animals face.

Pair it with Can We Save the Tiger? by Martin Jenkins.

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### **Lewis Evans says**

The pictures were very detailed and engaging but the style of the book seemed to be too plain.

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### **Deborah says**

Gorgeous photo-realistic charcoal drawings. Heartbreaking to learn how threatened these creatures are.

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### **Aliza Werner says**

Beautiful hyper realistic illustrations. Counting book of animals from Africa.

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### **SarahEmily1990 says**

Superb illustrations but not sure how this would function as a children's book. The counting element could be good however I do not feel that the extra text about the animals is appropriate for children

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### **Vernon Area Public Library KIDS says**

At first glance it is difficult to tell whether the art in this book is photographs or drawings. The detailed large drawings are actually done with charcoal. Each spread celebrates an animal through poetic text that describes the animals' qualities and behavior. The list includes a lion, elephants, penguins, tigers and more. The end pages provide more information on their status from endangered to those who are less threatened. An added bonus of this title is the quiet counting lesson the book provides. This is a great book that works in a variety of settings from a classroom to laptime.

Reviewed by Emily MacNiff, Youth Services, Vernon Area Public Library

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### **Linda says**

The illustrations take one's breath away. At first one thinks photographs, but no, these are gorgeous charcoal drawings of ten animals. Virginia McKenna (the actress who played Joy Adamson in the movie, Born Free) writes a beautiful forward of the need for concern for all the earth's animals, not just these, and the back matter gives more evidence of the importance of protection. Virginia is the head of the Born Free Foundation, a world group fighting for animal protection everywhere. Counting animals is one part of protecting them, but there is more to do. Each double-page spread shares a brief paragraph about the animals.

It should spark some interest in further research of endangered species, or just one of these creatures. There is also a page of organizations to find additional information, and there is a surprise at the very end!

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### **Laura Harrison says**

Glorious, over sized picture book. Wonderful for animal lovers and budding naturalists. The charcoal drawings will make you gasp. Most of the illustrations look like photographs. One of the best non-fiction picture books I have ever encountered.

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### **Beth says**

It's hard to believe that the illustrations in this unconventional counting book are drawings and not photographs. Simply stunning.

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### **Charlotte Little says**

Counting Lions highlights that we cannot be ignorant of the fact that the end of a beautiful species such as elephants and tigers is in sight. This is discussed through poetic texts paired with simple facts that reveal the ways in which endangered animals live and survive on Earth. From one majestic lion to ten miraculous zebras, these full-page black and white drawings give the reader a chance to get up close and personal with nature's wildest creatures. These images are very powerful and stand out to the reader. This book can be incorporated in the classroom for all ages, allowing discussion, debate and written work such as their own animal poem.

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### **Figgy says**

Within these pages you will find ten different species of animal ranging in endangered status from Least Concern and Near Threatened through to Vulnerable and Endangered, and the foreword by Virginia McKenna (a British stage and screen actress, author, and wildlife campaigner) goes further to explore the direction so many species of wild animal are going.

If it was true that there were, in reality, only five elephants or four tigers, then the world would know that the end of those species is in sight. That fearful moment has not arrived – yet. But no one can be ignorant of the fact that an increasing number of species of wild animals are part of this number crisis. In 1900 there were 10 million African elephants. In 2014 there were 434,000 – and that number falls weekly. Just over 100 years ago there were about 100,000 tigers. In 2014 there were fewer than 4,000.

On each page, and we count through from One lion to Ten zebras, we are given a gorgeous hand-drawn image of the creatures in question, so beautifully realistic that, even if the rest of the content were awful, it would be worth buying for the illustrations alone.

The rest of this review can be found **HERE!**

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**Michele Knott says**

Simply gorgeous.

Love the lyrical language that is wonderful to read, but still teaches us information.

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