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“This book is a unique, well-researched, and timely volume that explores how the museum serves as an exemplary space for a peculiar sort of transformation, one in which dead animals become born again into the cultural lives of people.”

—Susan McHugh, author of *Dog and Animal Stories: Narrating across Species Lines*

The Afterlives of Animals A Taxidermy Tour

In the quiet halls of the natural history museum, there are some creatures still alive with stories, whose personalities refuse to be relegated to the dusty corners of an exhibit. The fame of these beasts during their lifetimes has given them an iconic status in death. More than just museum specimens, these animals have attained a second life as historical and cultural records.

Edited by Samuel J. M. M. Alberti, **THE AFTERLIVES OF ANIMALS (October 2011; UVa Press)** comprises short “biographies” of a number of famous taxidermied animals written by a broad array of contributors, ranging from anthropologists to museum curators. Each essay traces the life, death, and museum “afterlife” of a specific creature, illuminating the overlooked role of the dead beast in the modern human-animal encounter through practices as disparate as hunting and zookeeping.

Varying from autobiographical to analytical, the contributors explore the lives and afterlives of creatures including:

- Queen Charlotte’s Zebra (otherwise known as “The Queen’s Ass”)
- Maharajah the Elephant
- Balto the sled dog
- Alfred the Gorilla

The result of their varying styles makes this delightful book a true menagerie.

Samuel J. M. M. Alberti, Director of Museums and Archives at the Royal College of Surgeons, is the author of *Morbid Curiosities: Medical Museums in Nineteenth-Century Britain*.

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