

This edition looks at Beloved Beasts by Michelle Nijhuis.

The Lit Review Project - a collection of visual literature reviews combining research, reflection, and design. This project reimagines academic literature reviews as something personal, tactile, and creative. Each zine in the series explores a single book or theme through illustrated spreads, diagrams, and design elements rooted in fieldwork, annotation, and care.



PORTRAITS in CONSERVATION



the lit review project
zine No 05

based on BELOVED BEASTS
by MICHELLE NIJHUIS

The movement he helped build outlasted the contradictions he carried. He hunted bison to near extinction, then spent the rest of his life trying to save them. He succeeded. He was also a racist who believed conservation was a white man's project.



WILLIAM
HORNADAY
1854 -
1937



RACHEL
CARSON
1907 -
1964

You cannot separate the fate of one species from the fate of all the others. She made sure everyone else found out that pesticides were poisoning the food chain. Silent Spring was attacked before it was published. It changed everything anyway.

Everyone thought hawks were pests. A suffragette turned conservationist. Edge bought a Pennsylvania mountaintop to stop the annual hawk slaughter and dared anyone to argue with her. Nobody who tried came out ahead.



ROSALIE
EDGE
1877 -
1962



PETER
SCOTT
1909 -
1989

He drew the panda & founded the WWF. He understood, before almost anyone else, that saving species required selling the idea of saving species.

What gets saved is partly a question of what people will pay to protect.

He spent his early career killing wolves because that's what land managers did. Then he watched a wolf die and saw something change in her eyes. He spent the rest of his life writing about what it meant.



ALDO
LEOPOLD
1887 -
1948



Every person in this book loved something fiercely enough to fight for it. Most of them were also wrong about something: who deserved to be in the room, which species mattered, whose land it was to protect.

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zine #5 - designed & illustrated by
zahra baxi

Think like a mountain.