

Bookmark prompts

To print your bookmarks, select flip pages on short edge and the design will print with the front and reverse sides in the correct place. Cut them out using the border as a guideline.

Slot the bookmarks into position matching them with the page numbers at the top of each bookmark.

Some do contain spoilers so try not to read them as you pop them in!



"This was their chosen sacrifice: where other owners of country houses would be preparing for evacuated children and babies, the Lockwoods would receive a quiet menagerie" p.14

Why do you think the Lockwood family has allowed the Natural History Museum (NHM) to store their specimens in their house?

Open the catalogue record to discover how the NHM really protected their objects during WW2



What do you think has happened to the Leopard? Has it been stolen?

"Places where fur had worn away, thread or glue had loosened, eyes had become scratched or dull cabinets bashed or rotten." p.42

Can you think of a "bad" taxidermy you have seen? After reading this chapter would you change your thoughts about it if you saw it now?

Turn over to see examples of how taxidermy can deteriorate over time



The Victorian hummingbird case



Not much is known about the origins of the Victorian hummingbird case on display at the Natural History Museum. It may have come from William Bullock's personal museum which was sold in 1819.

There are at least 100 hummingbirds within the case. To Victorian collectors, hummingbirds were valued for their jewel qualities, often being displayed in abundance (Syperek, 2015).

Turn over to see where you can read more!



Why is Hetty so protective of the collection? Do you think it is through loyalty to her job or another reason?

"In the centre of the jagged hole I could see a bare branch and the empty space where a handful of hummingbirds had sat only this morning." p.109

Sadly, theft isn't uncommon in museums, they often hold valuable objects that are desired by collectors.



Turn over to read about two famous cases of museum theft



The taxidermy specimens appear to be moving in the night. What do you think is causing it?

Can you think of another book, film or TV programme that uses taxidermy to create tension?

List them below:

Turn over to learn more about the use of taxidermy in film



PAGE 159



Taxidermy is often used as a physical representation of psychopathic traits in film, TV and books. One of the best examples is the character of Norman Bates in Psycho who is an amateur taxidermist. This use of taxidermy in media can build tension however it can feed into the negative perception.



In 2019 the film Stuffed was released, it celebrates taxidermy as both an artform and science.



THE ANIMALS AT
LOCKWOOD MANOR

PAGE 110



In 2019 three jewellery sets were stolen from Dresden's Green Vault museum, the pieces have not been recovered so it is likely they were broken up and distributed (BBC, 2020).



In 2009 a German flautist broke into the Natural History Museum, Tring and stole over 300 rare birds. The reason? to make flies for salmon fishing. Edwin Rist was ordered to pay £125,150 - the estimated amount he made through the sale of the stolen birds.

Read all about the feather heist in 'The Feather Thief' by Kirk W. Johnson (2018).



THE ANIMALS AT
LOCKWOOD MANOR

PAGE 49



Specimen of the month: Hummingbirds

A great blog post from Amy Freeborn about some of the Victorian hummingbirds in the NHM collections

tinyurl.com/specimen-of-the-month



Jewels of the Natural History Museum P.163-204

This is a PHD discussing gendered aesthetics in the Natural History Museum. This chapter in particular discusses the Gould hummingbird collection which contains over 300 specimens. It also touches on the Bullock Victorian hummingbird case too.

tinyurl.com/Jewels-of-the-NHM



THE ANIMALS AT
LOCKWOOD MANOR



Skin Splitting
at seams



Fur or feather
loss



Scratched or
receding eyes



Dirt, dust and
damage from
pests



THE ANIMALS AT
LOCKWOOD MANOR

GLOSSARY



Chiroptera - The order in which bats are found, it translates as 'hand-wing' referring to the bats wings.

Insectivora - now obsolete this was used to group mammals which subsist primarily on insects.



Marsupialia - Scientific name for marsupials such as kangaroos and opossums.

Cetacea - aquatic mammals such as orcas and blue whales.



THE ANIMALS AT
LOCKWOOD MANOR

PAGE 232



"The environment inside Lockwood Manor was not an ideal location for the specimens." p.232

There are 10 agents of deterioration which put collections at risk.

How many have appeared in the book so far?

- Fire
- Water
- Pests - both insects and mammals
- Pollutants
- Temperature
- Humidity
- Light
- Dissociation - loss of data relating to objects
- Thieves & vandals
- Physical forces - impact, shock and vibration

Turn over to learn more about pest management



THE ANIMALS AT
LOCKWOOD MANOR

PAGE 233



Taxidermy is a technique which sits within the world of science and art, however, it is often not celebrated in either discipline.



Artistic skill is needed to create an accurate armature and to sculpt and arrange the final piece in a way that brings the animal back to life.

An understanding of nature and the science involved in the preservation process is also needed however, to ensure accuracy in the piece.

Use the miniature guide to modern taxidermy to discover the process of taxidermy.



THE ANIMALS AT
LOCKWOOD MANOR

PAGE 315



"Fire!" someone screamed.
"There's a fire!"
p.314

How do you think the fire was started?
How might this moment change Hetty's life?

Fire can be one of the most devastating disasters museum and heritage institutions face. In a short space of time it can wipe out collections of cultural importance.

In 2019 the world watched as Notre Dame burned but it isn't the only cultural site to suffer extensive fire damage in recent years.

Turn over to read about the Brazil National Museum Fire



THE ANIMALS AT
LOCKWOOD MANOR

END



"What would grow from the ashes here what plants would feed on animals that had never stalked this land, never taken a breath here, but instead been dragged, dead, to stand in its dusty halls?" p.329



What do you think the main theme of the book is?

How has taxidermy been used in the narrative to illustrate this?

Turn over to see where you can learn more about taxidermy



THE ANIMALS AT
LOCKWOOD MANOR

FURTHER READING

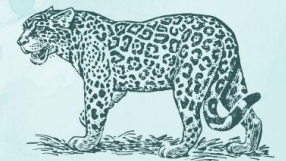


Fiction featuring museums

- Where we belong
- The Museum Makers

Non-fiction discussing museums and taxidermy

- Dry Store Room No.1
- The Authentic Animal
- The Feather Thief
- The Afterlives of Animals



All quotes used in this readalong pack come from *The Animals at Lockwood Manor* by Jane Healey



THE ANIMALS AT
LOCKWOOD MANOR

REFERENCES

Omstein, L. 2010. Poisonous Heritage: Pesticides in Museum Collections. Thesis. Available at: scholarship.shu.edu/theses/253

AMNH, 2021. Integrated Pest Management. Available at: www.amnh.org/research/natural-science-collections-conservation/general-conservation/preventive-conservation/integrated-pest-management

BBC, 2020. Dresden Green Vault. Available at: www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-55253873

Freeborn, A. 2014. Specimen of the month #5 Hummingbirds. Available at: www.nhm.ac.uk/natureplus/blogs/behind-the-scenes/2014/03/26/specimen-of-the-month-5-hummingbirds.html

Syperek, P.K.C. 2015. Jewels of the Natural History Museum. Ph.D. Thesis. UCL. Available at: discovery.ucl.ac.uk/id/eprint/1471589/1/Pandora%20Kathleen%20Cruise%20Syperek%20Jewels-finaltextonly.pdf

END



Taxidermists on Instagram:

@jazmine_miles_long
@ellekayetaxidermy
@gotham_taxidermy
@allis
@specimenspod
@georgedante
@iot_studio



Natural history Museums on Instagram:

@smithsonianmnh
@colezoologymuseum
@morethanadodo
@nhm_tring
@natural_history_museum



Conservation or natural history YouTube channels:

- The Brain Scoop
- The Conservation Starter
- Natural History Museum; Behind the Scenes series



THE ANIMALS AT
LOCKWOOD MANOR

PAGE 315



In 2018 the Brazil National Museum caught fire, destroying 200 years of research and knowledge in a single night. Of the 20 million objects in the museum, almost 90% were lost including many natural history specimens.



(Photo: BBC News, 2018)

A faulty air-conditioning system was all it took for the majority of Brazil's national collection to burn away in six hours.

You can learn more and find videos here:

tinyurl.com/Brazil-museum-fire



THE ANIMALS AT
LOCKWOOD MANOR

PAGE 233



Until as recently as 1960, arsenic was used within the production of the taxidermy and applied as a pest treatment in museums (Omstein, 2010).

The timeline for the Animals at Lockwood Manor makes it very likely that Hetty is using arsenic compounds to fight their pest infestation.



THE ANIMALS AT
LOCKWOOD MANOR

PAGE 232



In museums and historical buildings, Integrated Pest Management (IPM) systems are used to monitor pest activity.

It involves preventative measures such as improving storage, monitoring temperature and humidity and monitoring the number of pest species using traps (AMNH, 2021).



You can learn more about the agents of deterioration from the Canadian Conservation Institute (2017) here:

tinyurl.com/Agents-of-deterioration



THE ANIMALS AT
LOCKWOOD MANOR