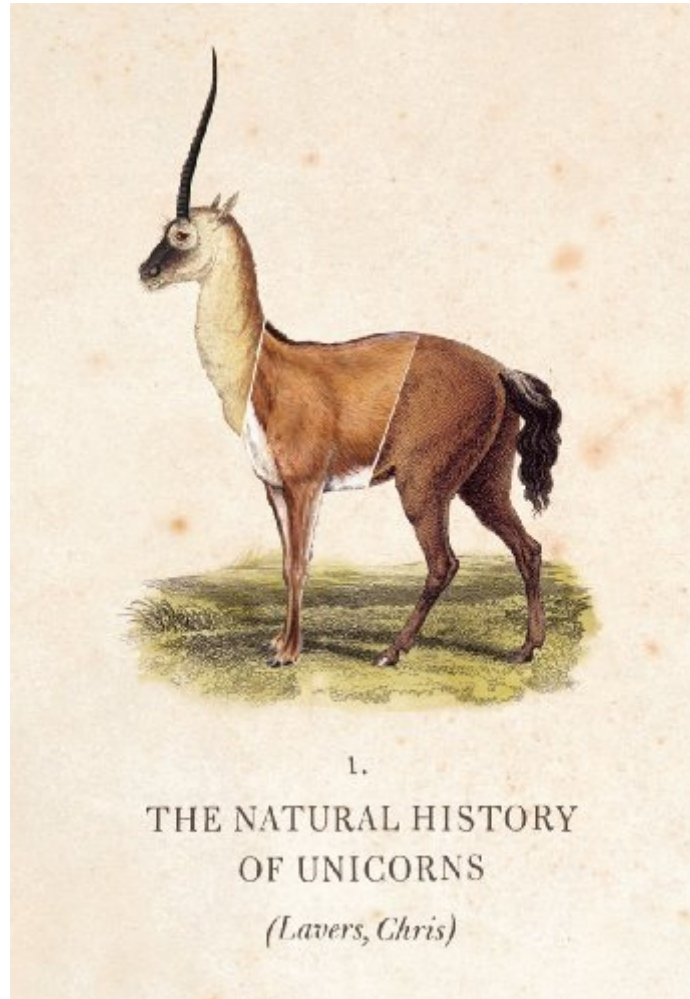


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# The Natural History Of Unicorns



## Synopsis

“Lavers keeps his intellectual detective story passionate and suspenseful.” — Washington Post Book World

From Biblical stories about virgins to adventures with Harry Potter, unicorns have enchanted people for millennia. In the endlessly fascinating *The Natural History of Unicorns*, author Chris Lavers ingeniously traces the legend of this mysterious creature to the real people, places, and animals that have influenced its story.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Thorough, engrossing, and respectful to the reader no matter whether they're a believer or not, this is one of THE top books on unicorns for the adult reader. There's plenty about unicorns and their legends that I have not found in any of the other books in my vast unicorn book collection. I can't recommend this book highly enough for the unicorn enthusiast, mythology enthusiast, writer, spiritual seeker, natural historian or even the interested bystander. I couldn't put it down!

I enjoyed this book. It did refer to *The Lore of the Unicorn* by Odell Shepherd a lot, so if you have read that book, you will recognise many of the stories in this one. There are photos and some other insights so it is still worthwhile to read.

The unicorn is generally accepted as a mythological creature. In *"The Natural History of Unicorns"*, Chris Lavers ingeniously tracks the history of unicorns throughout time and across the globe, spanning a 2500 year time line, giving the reader an understanding of the unicorn's unique history. Interestingly, the unicorn can be found all over the world. In fact, Lavers does a remarkable job indicating how prevalent this animal is in history. He does an outstanding work by detailing the specific connection to Christendom. The symbolic nature of this creature and its allegorical significance in relation to Christ is also discussed. For instance, the unicorn is usually perceived to be a creature connected with purity and love. Furthermore, Lavers intricately conveys the miscellaneous animals that have contributed to the creation of the unicorn as we know it today. From a goat, to a rhinoceros, to a cow, to the one-horned white horse that we portray as a unicorn today is tracked and traced throughout history in a scholarly fashion. A truly amazing work of research is presented by Lavers. The phenomenon of the appearance of the unicorn throughout history, from ancient writings in ancient civilizations and artwork through our present day culture and society is brilliantly offered by Lavers. *"The Natural History of Unicorns"* is a delightful, enjoyable and easily readable book.

Like many, I've always been fascinated by unicorns. I even saw one as a child. Having read this book, I now understand how that unicorn (a goat, as it happens), was made. Actually, I understand much more than that. I always assumed that unicorns were a Western European legend. Lavers quickly disabused me of that notion. The idea of unicorns has been bouncing around Europe, Asia, and Africa for a long time - longer than the historical record covers. Lavers does an excellent job tracing the unicorn back to its earliest appearance in legends, as far forward as the European search for it in Africa, and all the meanderings in-between. The book is meticulously researched, with great insights. It contains the sort of information that I would never find on my own, short of devoting a lifetime of research. I have only one criticism, but it's enough for me to withdraw a star. Lavers falls into the academic's trap of making his work sound more important through overcomplicated sentences and esoteric word choices. I'm used to reading research journals, and Lavers' writing seemed convoluted by comparison. It made reading the book more work, and less

recreational, than it could have been.

fascinating book, accessible language, useful as a research resource, unfortunately no pictures in the kindle version, still a very neat read.

This is an intriguing nonfiction work searching beyond the varied mythical legends to the aptly titled THE NATURAL HISTORY OF UNICORNS. Chris Lavers escorts his audience to a world five hundred years before Jesus in which Greek physician Ctesias living in Persia describes the unicorn that has become the basis of mythos. Lavers follows up on the Ctesias' account with a deep look at similar horned species especially the Tibetan chiru. He takes the legend to Christ as the first Christians connected the "animal's" purity to Jesus but cites a biblical reference of a Jewish cow becoming a unicorn. The author goes in great depth into medieval times and their tapestries and the nineteenth century romanticists who relished the purity of the unicorn. Even though the enlightenment scientists claimed there were never such a beast, the unicorn lives today in books and movies as a fantasy creature but Mr. Lavers makes a strong case with a few sidebar cul de sac trips that the fabled beast has its roots in real animals. The author's energy will hook readers from the onset as fans will follow the discourse of Chris Laver's deep look into THE NATURAL HISTORY OF UNICORNS. Harriet Klausner

If you are the kind of person who likes a good guided tour of history, with several good digressions and a witty rather than stuffy tone, this is a great book for you. The author has a good sense of proportion, and he never demeans anyone for believing (or not believing) in unicorns, but instead gives us the reasons why people thought about things the way they did, and he has a fun time doing it.

Everything you wanted to know about Unicorns. Captivating from front to back if you love a walk through history in detective style. Easy reading though younger children might have some difficulty. Twenty or so photos ( black and white ) of good quality. I highly recommend this book.

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