



Between Man and Beast: An Unlikely Explorer, the Evolution Debates, and the Afri

By Reel, Monte.

Doubleday. 1 Cloth(s), 2013. hard. Book Condition: New. The author of *The Last of the Tribe*, former Washington Post reporter Monte Reel here gives us the riveting, almost unbelievable adventure of an unlikely young explorer who in the 1850s emerged from the jungles of Africa with evidence of a near-mythical creature the gorilla only to stumble straight into the virulent debate over Darwin's theory of evolution. Paul Du Chaillu, armed with an astonishing collection of zoological specimens, experienced instant celebrity. But with that fame came whispers about his past, his credibility, and his very identity as he found himself caught up in an entirely different sort of jungle. "Reel provides a robust intellectual history by embedding Du Chaillu's story within the debate over evolution, the relationship among the human races, the rise of Christian fundamentalism, and the nasty backbiting that was common in the scientific arena of the time. He expertly probes the history of the enigmatic Du Chaillu, someone who purposefully shrouded his past from scrutiny. In Reel's hands, Du Chaillu's adventures in Africa, including his discovery of Pygmies and his part in a smallpox epidemic, were no less harrowing than his interactions with many of the world's leading scientists and explorers." *Publishers Weekly* 331.



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