

Abominable Science!

Origins of the Yeti, Nessie, and other Famous Cryptids

Daniel Loxton and Donald R. Prothero

A CAPTIVATINGLY ILLUSTRATED, GENERAL-INTEREST BOOK CONFRONTING THE PERSISTENT MYTHS OF CRYPTOZOOLOGY.

Large numbers of people believe in demonstrably false phenomena, from UFOs and ESP to Bigfoot and the Loch Ness monster. Even though these fictions have been repeatedly debunked and discredited, they persist in the human imagination and influence our beliefs and our society. Spinning tales of fantastical creatures may seem like a harmless pastime, but when pseudoscientists make “revolutionary” claims about the world and its history, evidence-based science, public policy, and human progress suffer.

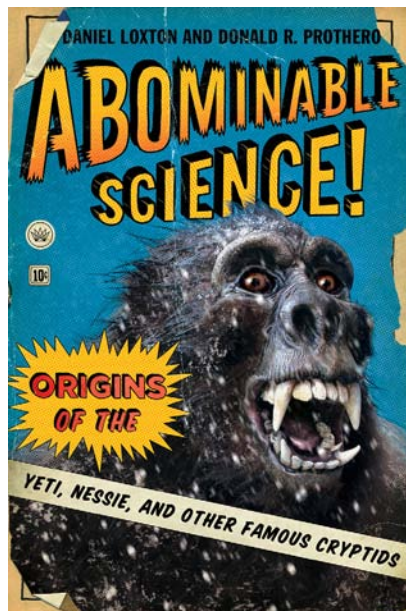
Daniel Loxton and Donald R. Prothero complete an entertaining, educational, and definitive text on a variety of cryptids, presenting the arguments both for and against their existence and systematically challenging the pseudoscience perpetuating their myths. After opening chapters examining the nature and practitioners of pseudoscientific thought and marking its divergence from proper science, Loxton and Prothero discuss Bigfoot; the Yeti, or Abominable Snowman, and its cross-cultural incarnations; the Loch Ness monster and its many, highly publicized sightings; Champ, Ogopogo, and other lake monsters; the legend of the Sea Serpent; Mokele Mbembe, or the Congo dinosaur; and the Goat Sucker, otherwise known as the Chupucabra. They conclude with an analysis of the psychology behind persistent paranormal and extraordinary belief, identifying cryptozoology’s major players, the character of its subculture, and its danger to critical thinking in our society.



DANIEL LOXTON is the editor of *Junior Skeptic* magazine, a staff writer for *Skeptic* magazine, and the author of *Evolution: How We and All Living Things Came to Be* (winner of the 2010 Lane Anderson Award as Canada’s best science book for young readers) and *Ankylosaur Attack* (*Tales of Prehistoric Life*). He is also an illustrator specializing in complex computer-generated and mixed-media scenes of photorealistic creatures. In addition to his many *Junior Skeptic* covers, he has designed covers for *Yes Mag*, *Skeptic*, and *Free Inquiry* magazines.



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“An entertaining, educational, passionate, and valuable handbook for readers interested getting a scientific perspective on the field of cryptozoology. With marvelous artwork and deeply researched histories of the various creatures, this is an impressive and authoritative book.”

—Adrienne Mayor, Stanford University,
author of *The First Fossil Hunters: Dinosaurs, Mammoths, and Myths in Greek and Roman Times*

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