



# Threatened

*Eliot Schrefer*

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**Threatened** Eliot Schrefer

*Into the jungle. Into the wild. Into harm's way.*

When he was a boy, Luc's mother would warn him about the "mock men" living in the trees by their home—chimpanzees whose cries would fill the night.

Luc is older now, his mother gone. He lives in a house of mistreated orphans, barely getting by. Then a man calling himself Prof comes to town with a mysterious mission. When Luc tries to rob him, the man isn't angry. Instead, he offers Luc a job.

Together, Luc and Prof head into the rough, dangerous jungle in order to study the elusive chimpanzees. There, Luc finally finds a new family—and must act when that family comes under attack.

## Threatened Details

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Author : Eliot Schrefer

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# **From Reader Review Threatened for online ebook**

## **Edward Sullivan says**

Luc lives in Gabon with other young AIDS orphans boys under the roof of Monsieur Tatagani, an unscrupulous , exploitive man. Professor Abdul Mohammad meets Luc and hires him as his assistant, taking him deep into the jungle to study chimpanzees. Luc discovers he has an interest and aptitude for the work, thrives under Prof's tutelage. When Prof disappears under mysterious circumstances, Luc must survive on his own. It soon becomes clear to Luc that the human species are far less civilized than the chimps. A powerful, engrossing, and fascinating follow up to Endangered.

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## **Sharman Russell says**

I really felt plunged into a different world, not only of chimpanzees in the jungle, but of being an AIDS orphan in the West African country of Gabon. Some initial details were horrifying--child thieves being threatened with having their hands cut off. I was glad that most of the story deals not with human brutalities but with the matter-of-fact realities of nonhuman nature--how leopards kill chimps, how chimps kill each other, how one animal eats another. The world of chimpanzees is also full of family attachments and friendships and complex relationships, and this story is really about that--a boy among chimpanzees. It made sense to me. The details felt real. I was taken there.

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## **Karen says**

Wow - what an engrossing book! Schrefer's story about a teenage AIDS orphan in Gabon who befriends a family of chimpanzees while living in the jungle to study them is exciting, fascinating, disturbing and heart-warming all at the same time. Excellent setting and character development, plus a host of thorny issues to discuss make this a good choice for book groups/clubs. Threatened had a strong impact on me, and I can definitely see why it was a 2014 National Book Award finalist ([http://www.nationalbook.org/nba2014\\_y...](http://www.nationalbook.org/nba2014_y...)). I'm putting the author's first book (Endangered) on my "to-read" list for sure...

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## **jv poore says**

I want to crawl into this book and live forever with Luc and "his" chimpanzees. Mr. Schrefer's adoration and admiration of these astounding creatures is obvious and contagious. His complete understanding of the logistics as to why the chimpanzees must be wild animals is as evident as the tug of emotion that wishes it wasn't so.

Threatened isn't a glossy, glowing fantasy of strolling under canopies of trees, munching fresh fruit, arms happily swinging without a care in the world. Luc's story is tragic and not unique. This is real. It is raw. And brutal. Harsh and stunning. This tiny tome is heart-breaking, soul wringing and world-shattering. But, most importantly, it is hopeful.

Our street-boy-turned-scientist-narrator, Luc is tough, courageous, bold and tenacious. He is sneaky, suspicious, starving, alone and abused. But kind. And emphatic. And hopeful, loving, open and intelligent. Uncannily, it seems the Professor gleans this as he sips mint tea and watches the scrawny boy wipe down tables in the seedy dive on Gabon's main street in Africa.

The Prof is delightful, compassionate, sly, clever, brilliant and also.....sad at his core. The Egyptian Arab proudly proclaims to be embarking on an adventure to become Africa's very own Jane Goodall. Of course, an assistant is required for his stay in the jungle. With slightly less than half of the population being under 15 years of age due to the AIDS epidemic (The Worm), the Professor hopes to employ a local boy.

Mr. Schrefer's tale of two lost souls together in the jungle observing chimp behavior is breathtakingly beautiful. He perfectly captures Luc's gradual, 180-degree change of heart and mind towards the chimpanzees in general, and one very captivating chimpanzee: Drummer, specifically. This author's prose is thoughtful and thought-provoking. As if by magic, he combines infuriating, depressing facts with optimism, ambition and sweetly simple dreams.

While *Threatened* is indeed appropriate for Middle-Grade readers; this narrative, in Mr. Scherer's words, transcends age. It should not be overlooked or dismissed by the Young Adult, New Adult, or even the Older-Than-Dirt Readers, like me.

This is not the time for self-limiting. Missing out would be catastrophic.

This review was written for *Buried Under Books* by jv poore.

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## **Maggie Stiefvater says**

As with *ENDANGERED*, I think this is a teen book that will resonate best with teens — I liked this one even better. Teachers/ librarians: plenty of stuff to talk about with your readers with these books.

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## **Beverly says**

"I was finally making a choice of my own, and it made me feel a contentment that lived right next to terror." Luc is an AIDS orphan in Gabon who has known way too much loss and exploitation in his young life. When an Egyptian researcher offers him a job as his assistant, and the chance to escape the man who has enslaved him since his mother's death, Luc jumps at the chance even though he has only heard horror stories about the chimps who live in the dense Gabonese jungle. Eliot Schrefer's extensive research into the geography, chimp behavior, and poaching problems of the West African jungles make *Threatened* a compelling read. As they follow Luc's adventures with the chimps, reader's will not see chimps as cute little human-like creatures, but they will share Luc's affection and respect for them. They will also share Luc's determination to protect them no matter what. *Threatened* is also a story of surviving loss. Something Luc

shares with some of the chimps. Even readers who are not particularly interested in chimps or endangered species will love *Threatened*.

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### **Sarah Laurence says**

On my best of 2014 list. Schrefer, who clearly did his research, delivers a strong wildlife conservation message while acknowledging human needs in developing countries. This story is educational but entertaining and would appeal to animal lovers and especially to boys who like adventure stories and don't mind gore.

Full review on my blog: <http://blog.sarahlaurence.com/2014/12...>

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### **Warren-Newport Public Library says**

This was an eye opening book. I have to admit I still don't love chimps as much as I love bonobos (after reading his last book), but I have a much bigger appreciation of them now. The two are our closest genetic relatives - which is why he has chosen to study them and write about them.

Schrefer's author's note is also incredibly important: "There are over fifty million AIDS orphans in sub-Saharan Africa: over 300 for each of the remaining wild chimpanzees. Outlooks for both of those populations are grim. Forty percent of Gabon's people are under fifteen. In large part because AIDS decimated a generation of adults." (Rebekah)

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### **Holly Mueller says**

Fantastic story of survival, will, and empathy. I loved *Endangered*, but I think I liked this one even more! I found my next 6th grade read aloud.

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### **Anthony says**

With a title like "*THREATENED*" you would expect a book that is suspenseful, and then you see a cute little chimp hanging from a tree and your next thought is "awwww, poor chimp. This must be an ecological novel." It is, in part, but it is also so much more than that. It is a novel about running from and confronting your fears, it is about making a family and a home, and it is about saving Chimpanzees.

Luc has always been afraid of the chimpanzees that lived in the jungle near his home. Their yells, shrieks, and cries would terrify him and he would huddle up with his mother who would warn him, "'this is why you must always be home before dark, Luc. If you're not, you'll become one of the kivili-chimpenze.' The Mock Men." Though he still fears the chimpanzee, Luc has more pressing fears now, like finding enough to eat and avoiding Monsieur Tatagani's beatings. Monsieur Tatagani is a money lender who takes advantage of indebted orphans. Soon Luc will have to deal with both fears, when a kindly "professor" tricks Tatagani and takes Luc into the jungle with him to study the chimpanzees.

Our protagonist, Luc, is threatened with imminent harm from people and the jungle, the Chimpanzees are threatened with loss of home and extinction, and the professor is threatened by his past catching up to him. This novel lives up to its title, but underneath all the threats lies hope. How do you keep hope when you've lost everything, when you are beaten, and when you are afraid. By finding something new to care about, and Luc finds that in the Jungles of Gabon.

I really appreciated the realism with which the author portrays Chimps in this novel. While they are simpler than humans, they are still quite complex animals with varying personalities. Our experience with them in books, on television, and from a distance at zoos, along with that all too human face, make them seem docile and kind, but in truth Chimpanzees can be very aggressive and dangerous. That danger is in part because they are 4 times stronger than a comparable human. Knowing these things about the Chimpanzee makes this book even more suspenseful. While reading this I imagined myself sitting in a canvas tent in the middle of the jungle, hearing the chimpanzees in the treetops above, and wondering if one of these unpredictable creatures would tear through my flimsy shelter. There really are some terrifying moments in this book that are terrifying because they are based in reality.

But again this book goes beyond the fear factor and it shows you the human factor, which is really interesting in comparison to the Chimpanzees which it is set against. This is one of those books that make you consider man's place in nature. It makes you consider man's inability to be peaceful. But it also gives the reader hope because it reminds us that there are people out there who overcome adversity, and there are people who make a difference.

Threatened is one of those great stories that make you want to know what would have happened to the main character had the story continued. I think about it every time I share this book with someone. What if Luc had... I don't want to give away the ending, but just know that this is a story that will stick with you.

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## **Ricki says**

Schrefer is an incredibly talented writer; his settings feel authentic in that he makes far away places seem very close to home. I develop a strong kinship with his characters---animal or human.

I expected *Threatened* to be very similar to *Endangered*, but I was wrong. *Endangered* is about an American girl visiting her mother in a Congolese bonobo sanctuary when a civil war breaks out. *Threatened*, on the other hand, is about an orphan boy from Gabon who goes into the wild with a professor in order to learn more about chimpanzees. But these books are more than their settings and the animals. They teach us about what it means to be human. Threatened, in particular, made me think about humanity's evolution and the difficulties that come from living in the wild. I couldn't help but think about how far humanity has strayed from nature. Even when Luc feels that he wants for nothing, he is ashamed that he still holds material desires. This book makes readers think critically, and it would be a great book to use in the classroom.

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## **Kanye Smith says**

Threatened is by far one of the favorite books ever! As it turns enemies to friends, Eliot Schrefer makes you want to sit on the edge of your chair and read more. When he adds great detail and paints a picture in your

head, it encourages you to stay tuned to what happens next.

In the book *Threatened* by Eliot Schrefer, a boy named Luc is forced to live in a house of mistreated orphans after his mother and sister die, and his father leaves them. When Luc brings home an occasional coin, it goes to his mom's debt. Once, when he sees a man with a briefcase, Luc instantly believes it is money that's inside. Although he is ready to grab the briefcase out of the man's hands, he is confused because in movies, handsome men with black suits on are usually carrying briefcases, the man wasn't very handsome nor was he in a black suit. When Luc has his chance, he goes in and tries to take the briefcase. Instead of being angry, the man named Prof, isn't mad at Luc but allows him to go with him to go into the wilderness to study chimpanzees, where he meets mock men such as Omar, Drummer, and Mango.

If you had to pick any book about primates and human relationships, *Threatened* is the book for you. When you read this book, you'll feel like you're actually in the wilderness with the chimpanzees.

"Humans are animals, too, you know."

-Eliot Schrefer, *Threatened*

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## Michelle Wrona says

*"I shut the book, smoothed my hands over the cover, and toyed with the spirals at the edge. I wanted to live inside that book. Which is how I knew I was staying."*

### When beginning and ending this book, this is how I felt and reacted:

At first, I decided to read this book because Eliot's debut, *Endangered*, was pretty good. It was well-written and captivating for my liking. He always deals with a concept that is unique and fresh. I dove right into it, **considerably enjoying it through the middle**. But by the end, I was steering myself away from it, especially because of the boring-predictable plot. But then, the ending was fairly good, so that boosted up my happiness, just a little.

This is about Luc, who has always been warned about the Inside. The "mock-men" have always been classified as extremely dangerous. Now, Luc is all alone, and his mother's gone. Then, a mysterious man named Prof comes into town where Luc "works," and offers Luc a job after he almost got robbed. They both head into the Inside to study the dangerous chimpanzees. Luc then realizes the truth behind everything, and that includes the chimpanzees themselves. Can you fight for creatures that you love?

**I seriously love Eliot Schrefer for his love of animals, specifically chimpanzees.** I love monkeys, so dearly much. They're one of my favourite animals, and I seriously open my heart out to them. I have so much respect for people who are fighting anxiously to save endangered and beautiful species such as the chimps. Through reading this book, you can really see the love that this author has for these animals. He puts his heart and soul into it, and all of his thoughts about the surrounding world who may think differently.

The plot of this book wasn't the most enjoyable. I can very much see that Eliot's main idea here is to be aware and save the chimps. But he does it uniquely and that's great. It certainly had its dull moments where not much was happening and everything was all bread-and-butter like. So in that aspect, the book was a

downer for me.

**But I really opened my heart out to the characters.** They were great. Luc was all rebellious and kick-ass and I liked him for that, but with the heart of his, it was even better. By the end, he had a great love for these primate relatives of ours, and that's just gorgeous to read about. I had my arms open to him and all of the monkeys.

**My favourite character would have to be Prof.** Despite everything that had happened, he was a remarkable person. Because of him, Luc got an opportunity to live his life in ways that he could never imagine of. He was a wise, unique person and believable. The feelings he showed were not fictional.

By the end, I was pleased with this book, but not **as** pleased as I was with Eliot's first book. The cover isn't attractive either. (A simplistic monkey cover, again?) It was an okay read, but nothing too special about it. The meaning is really beautiful, though.

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## **Stephanie A. says**

As in *Endangered*, Schreier has created another fascinating, primate-centric novel in a world that would envelope me into its humid, exotic and wild terrain within seconds of opening its pages. I still do not like chimps quite as much as bonobos, but the ones Luc befriends here are quite charming. And this location is even more remote: you really are one with the chimpanzees, as for great sections of the book there are only one or two humans present, with no trace of civilization Inside.

(view spoiler))

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## **Felicity Gibson says**

‘Threatened by Eliot Schreier.’

Read March 15th 2014

I had no idea that this would be a book aimed at young people. To me it was a book aimed directly at myself – all of 70 years old! As a retired teacher, I felt that this book would make a wonderful discussion for High School or Middle School Students. There is so much going on. Basically it is a survivalism story. It begins in a poor town in Gabon; the protagonist is Luc, an AIDS orphan making a living on the streets and being exploited by a real Fagan type character called Monsieur Tatagani. This same person makes a living by taking on the debts of others and then pretending to look after them with very poor room and board.; basically they are beggars and have to hand in their earnings each day. When a Professor and research person turns up in town, Luc steals his case but repents. He does not give it to Tatagani. In return the Prof hires Luc for his adventure upriver to study chimpanzees. The Prof explains his study by saying he is an African Jane Goodall working for National Geographic. Luc, very much on the look out for a chance to steal, whatever he can, is a reluctant companion.



In this book you experience the jungle through Luc's eyes. It is a gripping tale of jungle adventure and I was reminded of Mowglai. The reader grows with Luc as they witness human predators and the destruction of chimpanzee babies, mothers and males. Luc forges a friendship/relationship with a particularly dangerous chimpanzee – the animal Luc frees from a trap. There are dangers in the jungle -- animal and human, that they don't anticipate. The setting is exquisite and feels like a character on its own. The imagery generated by the writing is strong; the descriptions are rich and vivid; the jungle, the muddy river, the noises and the hooting wildlife. I found the story became more interesting in the last one-third of the book.

I loved reading this book. I highly recommend it for Middle school and High School. There is a magnificent 'Author's note' with so much information and further reading about chimpanzees, Jane Goodall's work and the Aids crisis in Africa. Thank you to Net galley for allowing me to read the advance copy. I would recommend this book for children from ages 12 upwards.

I give these book 5 stars.

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