

PETS' MEWS

The MewsPaper for Instagramming Pets, Plushies and their People

A Meditation on the Soul of an Octopus by Megan

by @meganmylifeisahoot



As most of you may already know, my Instagram account is host to a variety of owls and octopuses or, as I like to call them, Owltopuses. Veronica, Vernie, Valerie, Vera, Viv, Violet, Vicki, Vanessa—they're my Owltopus crew. But what do I really know about octopuses? Very little, I'm sorry to say! So when I came across the book, "*The Soul of an Octopus: A Surprising Exploration into the Wonder of Consciousness*" by Sy Montgomery, I decided it would be a great opportunity to learn more about them. And when asked to write an article for Pets' Mews, I thought why not share a little of what I learn.

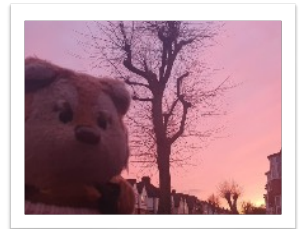


Hello Everyone,

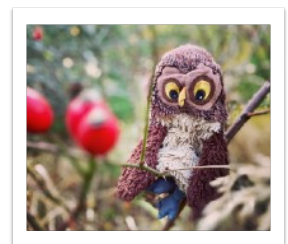
Welcome to another edition of Pets' Mews. We have a great book review by @meganmylifeisahoot, as well as a quick round up of some of your Good Mews Photos.

We would love to hear from you, so please do get in touch if you have an idea for an article, recipe, or anything you'd like to share with our great plushie community. Have a wonderful March!

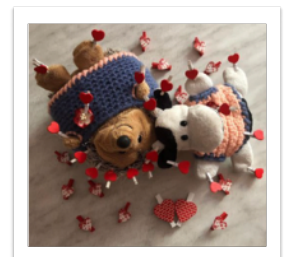
Lots of love, Topsy xxx



Lesen Sie die Zeitung jetzt auf [Deutsch](#) dank unseres Freundes @ausruheulen.



Благодаря Доечке @doyka and hedge, газеты Pets' Mews теперь можно читать на <https://www.travelswithmycat.com/?p=2366!>



Gentle, curious, friendly, intelligent. These may not be the first words that come to one's mind when thinking about an octopus. As the author herself addresses, the word most people think of is—monster. But to the author, octopuses are beautiful, graceful, mysterious creatures. And she's eager to discover more about them. As am I.

As I read, I excitedly soak up new tidbits of information. Octopuses, I learn, have three hearts. Their blood, I discover, is different from ours. It's blue because copper, not iron, carries its oxygen. They taste with their skin. They have a dominant eye, as people have a dominant hand. White, I learn, is the colour of a relaxed octopus. Octopuses turn red when they are excited. They have a short lifespan. And they are, of course, masters of change.

I learn that octopuses can change colour, pattern, and texture in seven tenths of a second. They can produce spots, stripes, and blotches of colour on their bodies creating what the author refers to as a "light show" on their skin. One of the moving patterns octopuses can create is called "passing cloud". The pattern looks like a dark cloud passing over a landscape, making it look like the octopus is moving when it is not. I google "octopus passing cloud pattern" so I can see it for myself. It's Owlsome!

As I learn all these fascinating facts, I follow the author's journey as she chronicles her interactions with various giant pacific octopuses at the New England Aquarium. Athena, Octavia, Kali, Karma—through her descriptions of her interactions with them, she shows how each octopus has its own personality, its own way of being. Her journey provides a rare glimpse into the octopus world, a portal through which we can learn about the octopus in a way most of us cannot. We meet Athena—named after the Greek goddess of war—who's feisty, curious. We meet Octavia who is gentle, intelligent. We meet Kali, named after the Hindu goddess of creative destruction, who is mischievous, and who seems to enjoy interacting with her keepers. And finally we meet Karma.

But the author doesn't limit her interactions with the octopus to the aquarium; she immerses herself in their world. She learns to scuba dive and travels to various spots around the world—Mexico, French Polynesia—in hopes of seeing an octopus in the wild. And she does. It's a rare experience—one most of us will never have.

Her encounters with animals underwater aren't limited to octopuses, she describes encounters with several other undersea creatures as well. Similarly, at the aquarium, she discusses many other aquarium residents as well: the sunflower sea star, the penguins, the green sea turtle, the electric eels. But always the focus comes back to the octopuses, her admiration and love for them clearly evident.

Do octopuses have souls? That's not a question solved within the pages of the book. Are they intelligent? Yes. Do they seem to have individual personalities? Yes. But then, I already knew that from my own experience. Vicki is shy and likes to meditate a lot. Vernie likes to practice magic and enjoys doing jigsaw puzzles. Violet's favourite colour is purple. She's a take charge kind of octopus and likes to organise activities and events. And Veronica is outgoing, friendly, enjoys cheering, and, of course, eating ice cream—8 scoops to be exact!



Good Mews Photos

The year is marching on (hehehe, I can never resist that joke) and is a round up of what you've been up to. (Top left) sees [@adventurabbit](#) sharing the love, while [@evulienka1965](#) spends time with her mokeke friends, (top right). Then we have lots of celebrations for Lunar New Year with [@zarina_azib](#) taking a walk to look for the Lanterns of the 12 signs of the zodiac (bottom left), and [@luckyppear1888](#) sending out best Moo Year wishes to all (bottom right).

