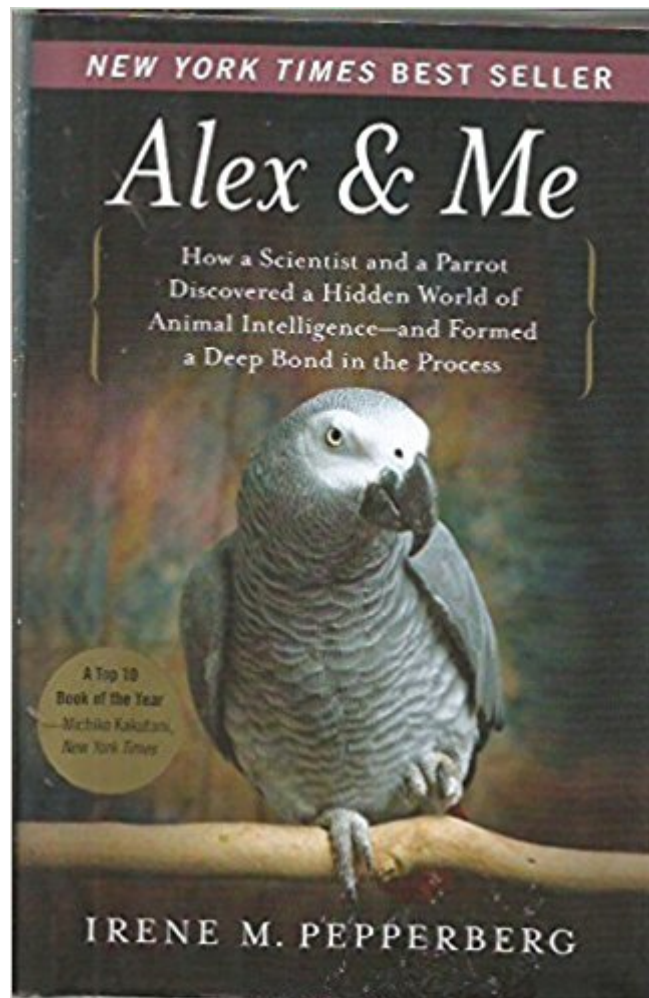




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Alex And Me



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Synopsis

Critically acclaimed, True Story! Alex & Me is the remarkable true story of an extraordinary relationship between psychologist Irene M. Pepperberg and Alex, an African Grey parrot who proved scientists and accepted wisdom wrong by demonstrating an astonishing ability to communicate and understand complex ideas. A New York Times bestseller and selected as one of the paper's critic's Top Ten Books of the Year, Alex & Me is much more than the story of an incredible scientific breakthrough. It's a poignant love story and an affectionate remembrance of Pepperberg's irascible, unforgettable, and always surprising best friend.

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Customer Reviews

Critically acclaimed, True Story! Alex & Me is the remarkable true story of an extraordinary relationship between psychologist Irene M. Pepperberg and Alex, an African Grey parrot who proved scientists and accepted wisdom wrong by demonstrating an astonishing ability to communicate and understand complex ideas. A New York Times bestseller and selected as one of the paper's critic's Top Ten Books of the Year, Alex & Me is much more than the story of an incredible scientific breakthrough. It's a poignant love story and an affectionate remembrance of Pepperberg's irascible, unforgettable, and always surprising best friend.

This book has been out for a while, but I just read it this spring. I had a vague familiarity with the story of the famous parrot Alex, that he could answer questions about what an item was and what color it was. I was astounded to read the details - Alex did things that no animal, let alone a bird - could do. Bird's brain structure differs from ours, no neocortex, no Broca's area, which are important for human cognition and speech. Everybody said parrots wouldn't be capable of such higher functions. Alex and Dr. Pepperberg proved them wrong. So many things came together. Dr. Pepperberg had a Ph.D in chemistry. And not just from any school - from MIT and Harvard! She must have had grit, determination and persistence to get through this demanding program back in a time when women were discouraged from studying these fields. She needed all those qualities to get the Alex Studies up and going. Always scrounging for lab space, teaching positions, and funding for assistants, moving from university to university to take advantage of opportunities.... There was considerable pushback from other scientists who were convinced that parrots could not do what Alex did, so therefore it must be a trick. Dr. Pepperberg's story is every bit as amazing as Alex's. She did continue the work, despite the struggles for recognition and funding, until Alex blew our beliefs about avian cognition out of the water. This book describes the research so that it's easy to understand. It goes beyond that to illuminate the special bond between scientist and parrot. It conveys a sense of the difficulty of the long struggle, though Dr. Pepperberg minimizes some of these issues in order to give credit to Alex, who she called her colleague. If she hadn't been so doggedly persistent.....if she hadn't designed the experiments so brilliantly to elicit the data needed....if she hadn't worked so tirelessly to build the disciplined training regimen she developed....and if Alex hadn't been so exceptional, then maybe none of the amazing results would have happened. The book describes the story brilliantly, making you feel as if you knew them both. And - spoiler alert for people who never heard of Alex - when Alex died, you might cry like a baby, as I did. She portrays his personality so vividly that his departure leaves a great void. Buy this book, read this book, then go follow the Alex Foundation as they continue the groundbreaking work with Griffin and Athena - African grey parrots like Alex, and learning to repeat his achievements. The fascinating story continues!

Marvelous and informative writing and research. God truly blessed Dr. P with Alex and I'm sure Alex had a full life, too! I was pretty engrossed in the book and wanted more and more of it. Seems it was edited and a chunk was omitted because it felt like the end of the story came rushing up too quickly. It was informative and helps me understand my parrot (Isaac D'byrd), the infamous beak who rules the roost! My students often ask how these parrots have the ability to talk and I have only one

answer "God made them this way." And yes, Isaac kissed the cover when he saw Alex. He enjoyed the bio, too. Birds of a feather....The rest is history.

An absolute must for anyone interested in aviculture. I have had the pleasure and privilege of meeting Dr. I on several occasions, and this book really captures the essence not only of her research, but also the relationship she had with Alex.

Excellent! A quick but profound read. Having had parakeets as pets I knew birds have intelligence; Dr. Pepperberg's studies with Alex and the other Greys really expanded upon their potential. Funny and heartwarming. Keep a box of tissues handy.

The book was like brand new, even though classified as used. The plot of the book was most enjoyable and it was an easy read. What an amazing and heartwarming story about a special relationship between the parrot and his owner. The research conducted over 31 years impacted the beliefs of how truly intelligent this parrot was!

Gave this book as a thank you gift! They loved it, and were so impressed with Alex! Who knew that the little Greys were sentient beings?

This book highlights what everybody knows who's worked with animals in any serious way - that they are sentient, that they do have feelings, and they form relationships with us.

The author is a past teacher and friend of mine. I was HAPPY to see it as she was writing the book the summer...or one of them when I was there at school at U Of A. I was happy to see it and enjoying reading it and my memories of Irene. I hope to get in touch with her again soon.

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