



# CANNIBAL ANIMALS

JOHN PERRITANO

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A green praying mantis is perched on a white branch that has been splattered with red blood. The mantis is positioned at the top of the page, with its body and legs visible. The background is a dark, textured red. A green rectangular box with a rough, torn edge is placed over the mantis, containing the chapter title.

## Chapter 1 **MAN-KILLER**

There.  
Sitting on a branch.  
It looks like a stick.  
A green one.  
But it's not.

It's a praying mantis.  
A male.  
He's eating.  
Then a female shows up.  
The male looks.  
He walks toward her.  
Flaps his wings.

The female turns her head.  
She jumps on him.  
And pins him down.  
He can't move.  
The two mate.

She's not done.  
She kills the male.  
But death comes slowly.  
The female bites his jaw.  
Rips it. Chews it.  
Next come his eyes.  
She pulls them out.  
Swallows them.  
The male sits.  
He won't fight back.



**WHAT SHARP FEET YOU HAVE**



The female is a *cannibal*.  
She eats her own kind.

She's not alone.  
Many animals do this.  
Females eat males.  
Parents eat children.  
Sisters eat brothers.



To humans it's gross.  
But not in the wild.  
The weak come for dinner.  
But never leave.





# CANNIBAL ANIMALS

Why do gators eat their babies?

Do animal sisters eat brothers too?

What helps toads grow?

Where do most cannibals live?

Do people ever eat people?

red rhino  
book s

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