

# CANNIBAL ANIMALS



JOHN PERRITANO



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## Chapter 1

# MAN-EATER

Something sits on a branch.  
It looks like a leaf.  
The color is green.  
This is no plant though.

It's a praying mantis.  
This one is male.  
He is eating.  
Then a female shows up.  
The male moves toward her.  
His wings flap.







The female turns her head.  
She jumps on him.  
Her legs pin him down.  
He can't move.  
Then they mate.

An odd thing happens next.  
The female bites his head.  
Her jaw rips and chews.  
Next come his eyes.  
These are pulled out.  
She swallows them.  
Her mate stays still.  
He won't fight back.  
Death comes slowly.









The female is a cannibal.

This is a creature that eats its own kind.

Many animals do this.

Females eat males.

Parents eat children.

It is a part of nature.





To humans, this is gross.  
In the wild, it can be normal.  
Strong animals live.  
Weak ones get eaten.







## GLOSSARY

**amphibian:** an animal that lives on land and in water, such as a frog

**amphipod:** a small sea or freshwater animal with a hard shell and a tall, narrow body

**copepod:** a tiny sea or freshwater animal with a hard shell and six legs

**defeat:** to win over someone or something

**defend:** to fight to keep or protect something

**embryo:** an unborn baby in the first days or weeks of growth

**energy:** the strength that allows you to do things

**global warming:** increase in Earth's temperature caused by trapped greenhouse gases

**mammal:** an animal that feeds milk to its babies and usually has hair or fur



# CANNIBAL ANIMALS

How do animals survive when there is not enough food?

What might make an animal eat one of its own kind?

How do scientists study what animals eat in the wild?

Why would an animal eat its own baby?

How does climate change affect wildlife?



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