

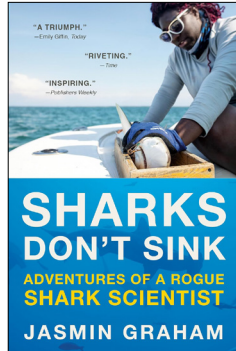
ZOOLOGY

Sharks Don't Sink: Adventures of a Rogue Shark Scientist

By Jasmin Graham. 2024. Vintage Books. 224 pages, 37.99 CAD, Hardcover, 24.95 CAD, Paper. Also available as an E-book.

In *Sharks Don't Sink: Adventures of a Rogue Shark Scientist*, marine biologist Jasmin Graham gives an autobiographical account of doing high-quality, impactful shark research outside of traditional institutions of academia. As the reader ship of *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* is diverse, I expect it will not surprise many that excellent science can be, and is, accomplished in the absence of a doctoral degree or university professorship. *Sharks Don't Sink* shows why someone with the talent and passion for pursuing research and marine conservation would leave the academic stream to plot another course. Weaving together past and present, Graham shares her story as it intersects with the history of her family and community, structural racism, sexism, and the perverse systems of power in society, specifically in the scientific community. She also provides examples of solutions; together with three other Black women, Graham is a cofounder of Minorities in Shark Sciences (MISS), which creates opportunities and supportive structures that push back against the toxicity that can be pervasive in the research sphere.

Will you learn about shark science from this book?



Yes. The author gives life to accounts of methodology and process, and her joy for the field is infectious. Shark research is at the core of this book, but the focus is less on 'facts about sharks' and more on the author's challenges and successes navigating the world of shark science. Graham reminds readers that, for those in academia or those who have stepped away, there is still lots of work to do to create safe, inclusive spaces, and this work involves all of us. *Sharks Don't Sink* illuminates that unscrupulous behaviour by bad actors and the systems that support them in the research world should be recognized and addressed, and alternative ways to do science deserve to be celebrated. A central message of Graham's is that who is empowered to ask and pursue research questions matters; as they say at MISS: "Diversity in scientists leads to diversity of thought, which leads to innovation" (p. 110). Funded research leads to data, which leads to policy, which can determine the course and success (or failure) of conservation initiatives.

This memoir is well written and engaging and I would recommend it to anyone with an interest in it. It will be especially impactful for those who are embedded in these systems, are considering research as a career, or have felt 'othered' by institutional systems not designed for them.

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