

CANNIBAL ANIMALS



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A praying mantis is perched on a dark, textured branch. The mantis has a green body with yellowish-green highlights on its head and thorax. Its long, thin legs are visible, and its raptorial front legs are partially visible. To the right of the mantis, a white, twisted object, possibly a piece of rope or a branch, runs vertically down the page, splattered with red blood. The background is a dark, mottled brown.

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.





Chapter 2

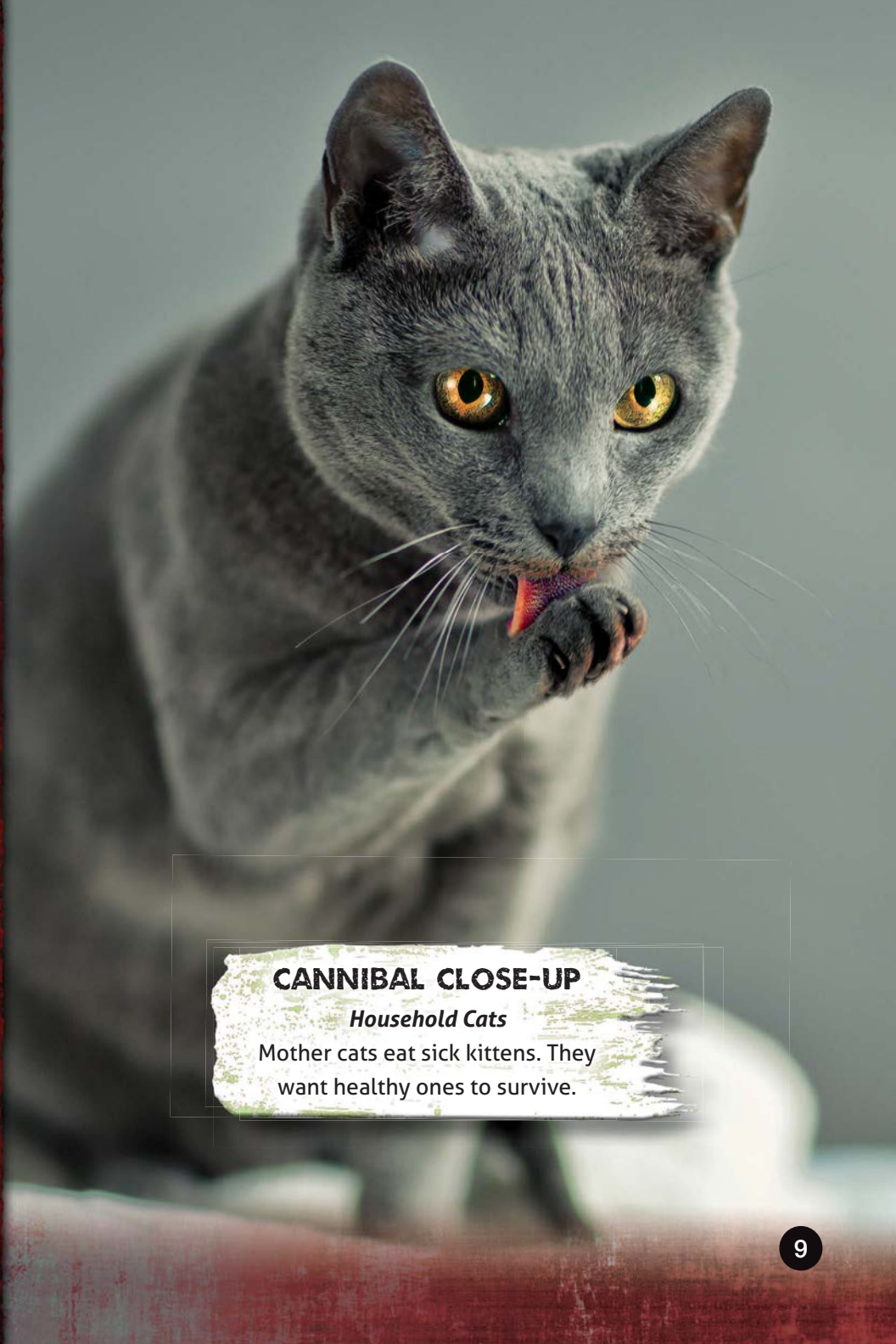
ON THE MENU

Animals may eat their own kind.
Hundreds of *species* do this.

Many are bugs.
Wasps can be cannibals.
Bees and beetles can too.

Even pets sometimes eat their own.
A mother dog may eat her puppy.
Hamsters eat other hamsters.
Chickens do this too.

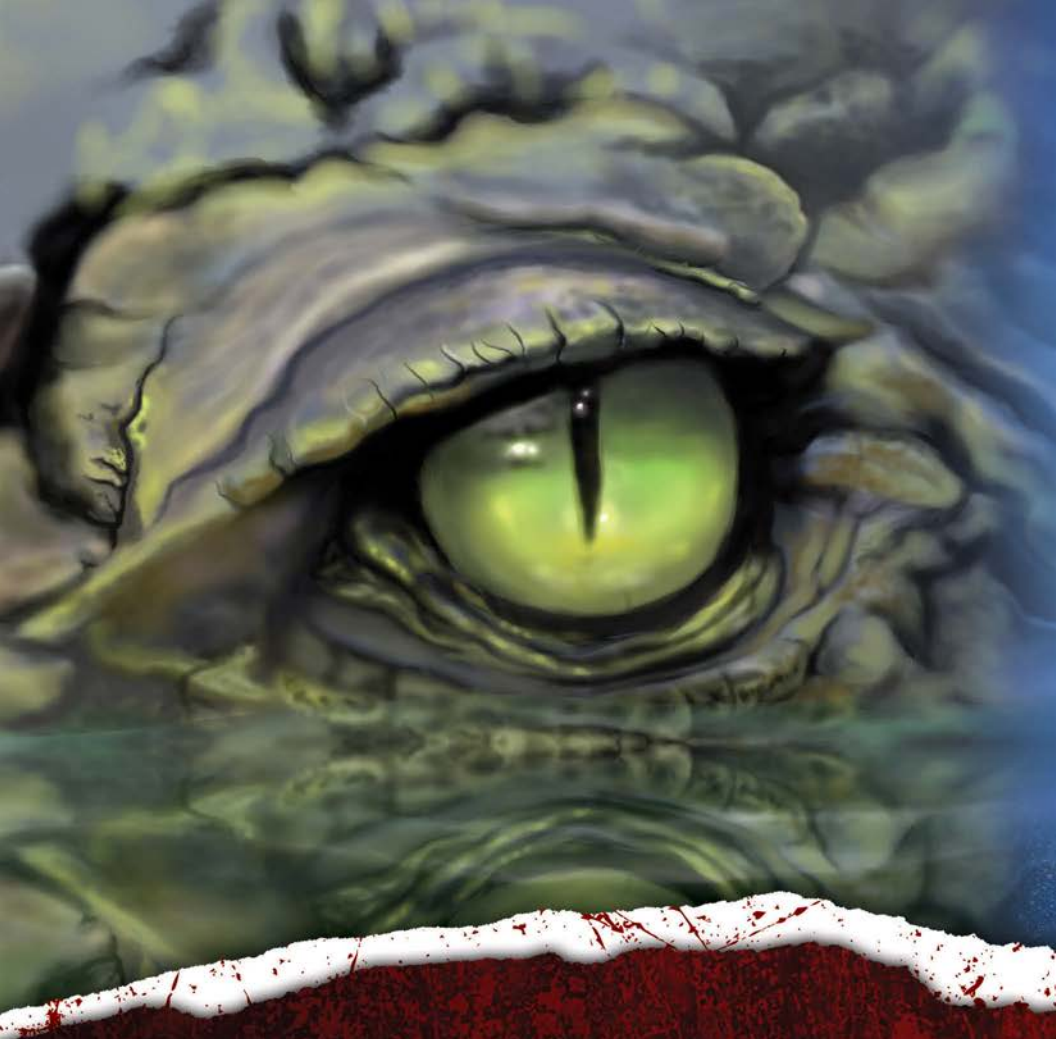
In chimps, it is rare.
But males have eaten babies.



CANNIBAL CLOSE-UP

Household Cats

Mother cats eat sick kittens. They want healthy ones to survive.



There are cannibals in the water.
Some live in oceans.
Rivers and lakes might be home.
Sharks are one example.
Alligators are another.



Many eat each other to survive.
Earth is warming.
Their food is running out.
Others eat their own for different reasons.