

# 11 EXPLORATIONS INTO LIFE ON EARTH

## CHRISTMAS LECTURES FROM THE ROYAL INSTITUTION

BY

HELEN SCALES

FOREWORD BY

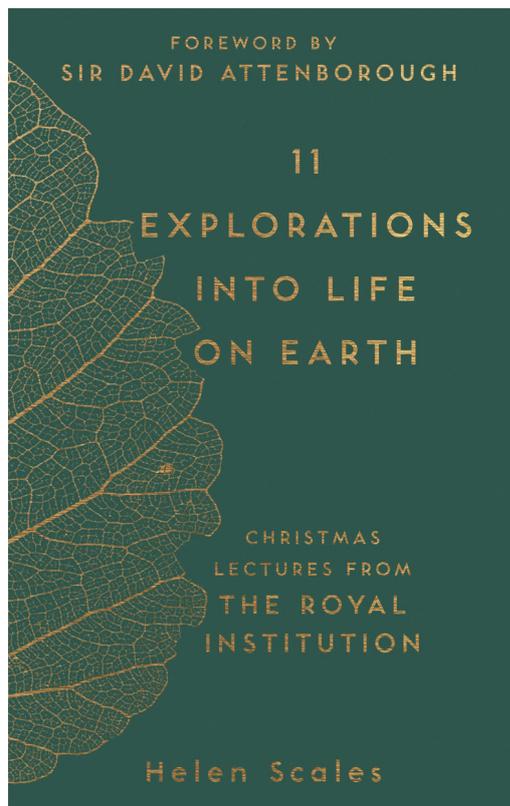
SIR DAVID ATTENBOROUGH

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The Royal Institution's Christmas lectures have seen a succession of eminent speakers fill the RI's iconic Faraday Lecture Theatre and unlock for their spellbound young audiences - and, today, viewers worldwide - the secrets of science. This beautiful hardback volume examines eleven of the past century's most exciting lectures on the natural world, including Sir David Attenborough's animal-packed 1977 Lectures and Richard Dawkins's explosive series on evolution.

From Sir Peter Chalmers Mitchell introducing the audience to a jaguar in 1911, through sleepy sloths and snapping alligators to Desmond Morris's ingenious chimpanzees, *11 Explorations into Life on Earth* is crammed with extraordinary plant and animal life and amazing facts. The book also details some of the lecturer's experiments - from demonstrating the knifefish's electric navigation pulse to Richard Dawkins swinging a metal cannonball at his own face - with behind the scenes tales, archive material, photographs and interviews with many of the speakers.

### ***Did you know?***

*Blackbirds have regional accents. Rhea babies communicate with each other from inside their eggs. A startled trout accelerates at 95mph. Bees dance to tell their hive-mates the exact location of flowers. Plants issue a warning system to others nearby when munched on by caterpillars.*

**Dr Helen Scales** is a marine biologist, broadcaster and writer, appearing regularly on BBC Radio 4 and Sky News. She is scientific advisor to the charity Sea Changers, a fellow of the Royal Geographical Society and a tutor at the University of Cambridge. Her most recent book, *Spirals in Time*, was broadcast as Book of the Week on Radio 4.

### **Notes for Editors:**

- Serial and extract rights available
- Helen Scales is available for interview and to write pieces
- Ideal Christmas gift, especially twinned with companion volume *13 Journeys Through Space and Time*
- Competition prize copies and prizes from Royal Institution available
- Professor Sophie Scott will give this year's Christmas lectures on The Language of Life

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