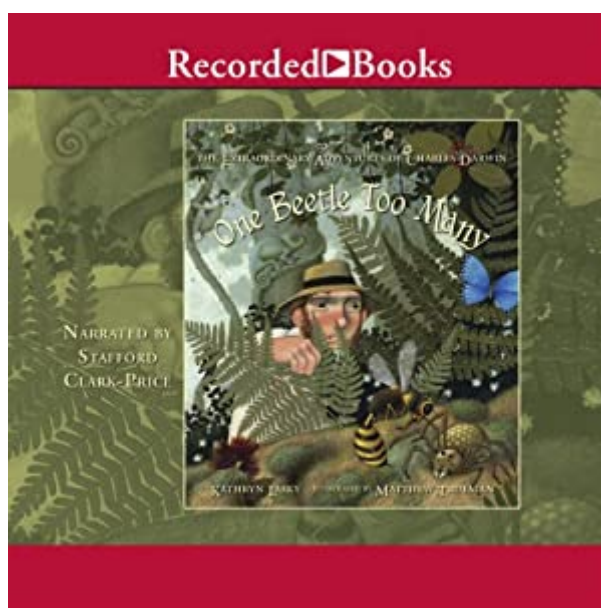


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# One Beetle Too Many: The Extraordinary Adventures Of Charles Darwin



## Synopsis

A lively exploration into the life of Charles Darwin, *One Beetle Too Many* recounts both Darwin's childhood and his time on the *Beagle* as a naturalist. This adventurous tale explores Darwin's discoveries in geology, paleontology, and animal anatomy that led to his famous theory of evolution.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I am studying to be a Biology teacher and I saw this book and thought it would be a perfect front-loading source for my future students. I had to get it.

Well written and illustrated. It was a nice intro to Darwin before taking our 9 & 8 year old kids to the Galapagos.

Great book and we're loving the story! The images are adorable and it's a great introduction to Darwin for my 6 year old.

Darwin's own age evolves from child to adult in text and illustrations ,both beautifully done .A great companion book to the book , " Charles Darwin and the Beagle Adventure ( Historical Notebooks ) ".

I was captivated by the cover and story of Darwin, of which I didn't know a lot about. I found this book delightful- light and easy reading with an interesting story arc and more depth than I would

have expected from an illustrated biography.

The information was nice. I only need to understand connection between "one beetle too many" and the story given in the book.

Author Kathryn Lasky did extensive research before writing *One Beetle Too Many: The Extraordinary Adventures of Charles Darwin*. She read many books, audited evolutionary biology classes and even attended lab sessions to look at bones at Harvard University. What resulted from her impressive preparation is a factual account of Darwin's fascinating life, from childhood to his later years. Before getting into the meat of the story, I simply cannot go further without mentioning the captivating illustrations in this book. Artist Matthew Trueman used a most unusual assembly of mediums to achieve the uniquely spectacular illustrations you see here. These included layers of acrylic ink, watercolors, graphite pencils, gouache paints and colored pencils. He then brilliantly used collage elements like paper, string, flowers and leaves to really give the illustrations true depth. You've simply just got to see these illustrations for yourself to appreciate them. Now back to the story . . . Readers of *One Beetle Too Many* will not only learn about the focus of Charles Darwin's passion - nature - but also of his struggles. As a young boy in the early 1800s, Charles was a failing student, though his sister shined in school. His disappointed father urged him to join the clergy, but although Darwin spent many hours each day reading the Bible, his passion was with nature. After a friend invited him on a long voyage to South America to serve as the naturalist on board a ship called *The Beagle*, Darwin had found his true calling. I like that this book mentions his early struggles so children can understand that not everyone who is smart and accomplished successfully mastered every aspect of his early life. In the pages of the book, we learn of the many plants and animals Darwin observed on his long journey, and how he viewed the world only as a true scientist would. He noted minute details and questioned so much of what he saw. His observations led him to realize that animals of the same species differed slightly from island to island in the Galapagos. The outcome of his great voyage was Darwin's theory that species changed over time to adapt to their environment, stating that sometimes the most minuscule changes may have taken millions of years. Naturally Darwin's theory of evolution was not received well by many religious people of his time. To this day there remains controversy among some over Darwin's theories. Yet still we can all greatly benefit from learning about Darwin's life and work, and *One Beetle Too Many* is a great way to introduce readers ages 7 to 12 years old, the scientific world of naturalist Charles Darwin.

There were a lot of interesting things in the house for Charles to look at. It was not the kind of house where children were told things like, "children must look, but not touch." Even his mother had interesting things to look at, for she raised pigeons. One of his favorite things to do was to collect beetles. He even learned the names of them. Charles was learning many things, but not in school. After his mother died, his father became exasperated with him. "You. . . will be a disgrace to yourself and all your family." When he was sixteen, he was sent off to college to learn medicine, but he still didn't get the picture. His grades were lousy and he still was interested in collecting things as he was a born naturalist, not a student. Studying to be a doctor was definitely not in the cards so his father sent him to the University of Cambridge to become a cleric. And he was still interested in collecting things. Then one day a letter came from a friend that would change his life forever. In 1831 he boarded the naval ship Beagle and would embark on a trip that would change his life and would forever alter the way the world thought about evolution. This type of simple biography makes it easier for the reluctant student to learn about a subject as the marvelous visual imagery can be a great help. The book was adventurous and fun. It makes the somewhat distant character, Charles Darwin, come alive for the reader. Obviously this book is not for the creationist, but would make a lovely addition to the home or classroom.

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