

Tanzar of the Chimpanzees

has returned from the jungle with
a message from our hairy cousins:

Human evolution isn't finished yet.

And if we want to save the chimpanzees
and our other wild relatives from extinction,
it's time for our next step!

FREE RALPH!



An Evolutionary Fable

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Stephen Wing

\$14.99 ISBN 978-0-9793907-0-8

Wind Eagle Press

available from New Leaf Distributing Co.

Ages ago, deep in the African jungle, our human ancestors split off from the bloodline that would evolve into our cousin the chimpanzee. Ever since, *homo sapiens* has been busy evolving an intelligence and culture far superior to those of our wild relatives.

Or have we?

This gently humorous, thought-provoking “visionary comedy” asks: What if the chimpanzees too have continued to evolve since that distant parting of ways, except in a different direction? And what if, as the ecological impact of human “intelligence and culture” grows clearer, the evolution of chimps and humans is about to converge again in an unexpected way?

Kumbu is a circus chimp, kidnapped in infancy from his family in Central Africa, who now performs on the trapeze under the stage name “Ralph” . . .

Wilbur Trimble is an American janitor, fulfilling his lifelong dream of an African safari, who gets lost in the jungle one night and rescued by a family of chimps . . . who happen to be Kumbu’s relatives.

When the chimpanzees discover that through a rare evolutionary mutation Wilbur bears “The Gift” — the ability to communicate telepathically, as they do — they commission him to rescue Kumbu from the circus, and the evolution of both species takes a quantum jump forward.

Printed on recycled paper.

“**Free Ralph!** is a delightful, provocative and profoundly entertaining plunge into the alternate reality of inter-species communication. I loved it. **Free Ralph!** just might free you.”

Lon Milo DuQuette, author of *The Key to Solomon’s Key* and *The Accidental Christ*

“Wing has written a comic epic in the tradition of Cervantes and Kurt Vonnegut. . . . An utterly convincing philosophy of evolutionary ecology is the deepest level of this profound and hilarious book.”

Taylor Stoehr, professor of literature, University of Massachusetts

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