BOOK REVIEW Book : Cobra in my Kitchen Author : Zai Whitakar Illustrator : Suddhasattwa Basu ‘Cobra in my kitchen’ written by Zai Whitakar is a compilation of poems, stories and quite a few interesting prose pieces on wildlife. This book is a must for a natural historian. Zai whitakar writes about her strange and unique adventures and experiences with her husband Rom Whitakar, a reptile craze. Her proses and stories serve as a trademark of humour. She also beautifully exhibits her innocence and her love towards wildlife.

This book instigates our imaginary skills by taking us to various unusual, out of way places like Papua New Guinea, Andaman Islands and Western Ghats filled with characters such as Taipan, king cobras, Russell’s viper, Pogo, etc. This book enlightens the facts that the full snake world isn’t much poisonous. The snakes like Pogo do not bite at all! It also thrashes many of the beliefs such as milk drinking snakes, gem headed snake, etc.

I am attracted to by the culture of Irulas. Irulas are much different than the high class people while treating snakes. It is a pleasure to note that the Indian Government has banned the hunting of animals like tortoises, lizards, etc. in Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. It is humourous to note that termites aren’t included in this list. Other reptiles like turtles, tortoises, crocodiles, and froggies are also part of Zai Whitakar’s adventures. The inclusion of tigers, birds shows her fantasy towards wildlife.

The illustration by the award winning illustrator Suddhasattwa Basu is like adding feather to her cap. Totally, I would say that the book ‘Cobra in my kitchen’ is like an ice cream melting in the mouth of the readers. Review by S. Gayathri, Class VIII ‘B’ VMA, Chennai-17