**ALL GOOD THINGS, TEXT , QUOTES , CAPTIONS**

**TEXT / BLURB**

In 2012, Stephen Ellcock, former publisher, bookseller , musician and downwardly –mobile perennial under-achiever began selecting imagery and posting them on his Facebook page, three years later he opened an Instagram account .

400,000 followers later, he has attracted a truly international following who eagerly await his regular uploads and his carefully curated, provocative, slyly subversive and skilfully sequenced albums of themed images.

Stephen’s selection of little known and public domain imagery often chimes deeply with his followers, his Facebook and Instagram pages have become an ever- expanding , constantly surprising resource, a much-loved online museum of images, visual delights, oddities and wonders drawn from every conceivable culture, era and corner of the globe.

After several glitches, reboots and false starts , Stephen has now finally published his first bona fide book , gathering several hundred of the finest images he could find into a single volume inspired by both the natural world and human endeavour.

The title, ALL GOOD THINGS, comes from the first ever encyclopedia created in England , ‘Omne Bonum’ (All Good Things) by the 14th century clerk , James le Palmer . Stephen’s book is structured to evoke the medieval tradition of exquisite, illuminated manuscripts – beginning with the act of Creation and travelling through the realms of sky, sea, earth, science and humanity before ending amongst the angels , demons and the visions of Paradise and glimpses of a better world, that have so preoccupied artists over the centuries.

With found artwork from archives, libraries and little known collections of art, illustration, photography and textiles, ALL GOOD THINGS can be appreciated on many levels.

Each chapter is prefaced by a reworked and rewoven fable, parable or myth from twelve different cultural, philosophical and religious traditions and the text is interspersed with carefully selected quotes from an international cast of poets , philosophers, scientists , visionaries , artists and cranks.

ALL GOOD THINGS is a wondrous journey through the imaginative life of humanity in all its bizarre and beautiful manifestations

All Good Things by Stephen Ellcock , published by September Publishing , Hardback ˑ £20 , $24.95 Available now from all good bookshops and online retailers

**QUOTES**

You are receiving images which are arranged. I hope you will consider what I have arranged and be sceptical of it – ***John Berger , Ways of Seeing***

listen: there’s a hell of a good universe next door: let’s go

**- e.e. cummings**

Loneliness;
After the fireworks,
     A falling star.

***Masaoka Shiki (1867-1902) translated by R. H. Blyth, in R. H. Blyth, Haiku, Volume 4***

“Imagine a pattern. This pattern is stable, but not fixed. Think of it in as many dimensions as you like—but it has more than three. This pattern has many threads of many colours, and every thread is connected to, and has a relationship with, all of the others. The individual threads are every shape of life. Some—like human, kangaroo, paperbark—are known to western science as ‘alive’; others like rock, would be called ‘non-living’. But rock is there, just the same. Human is there too, though it is neither the most or the least important thread—it is one among many; equal with the others. The pattern made by the whole is in each thread, and all the threads together make the whole. Stand close to the pattern and you can focus on a single thread; stand a little further back and you can see how that thread connects to others; stand further back still and you can see it all—and it is only once you see it all that you can recognise the pattern of the whole in every individual thread. The whole is more than its parts, and the whole is in all its parts. This is the pattern that the ancestors made. It is life, creation spirit, and it exists in country” ***Aboriginal lawyer, Ambelin Kwaymullina of the Bailgu and Njamal people of the Pilbara in Western Australia, (Kwaymullina 2005:13) Kwaymullina, A. 2005, ‘Seeing the Light: Aboriginal law, learning and sustainable living in country’,***

In nature nothing exists alone.

***Rachel Carson***

“Mans perceptions are not bounded by organs of perception, he percieves more than sense (tho' ever so acute) can discover” – **William Blake**

“Even broken in spirit as he is, no one can feel more deeply than he does the beauties of nature. The starry sky, the sea, and every sight afforded by these wonderful regions, seems still to have the power of elevating his soul from earth. Such a man has a double existence: he may suffer misery, and be overwhelmed by disappointments; yet, when he has retired into himself, he will be like a celestial spirit that has a halo around him, within whose circle no grief or folly ventures.”

**Mary Shelley, Frankenstein**

Kilimanjaro is a snow-covered mountain 19,710 feet high, and is said to be the highest mountain in Africa. Its western summit is called the Masai "Ngaje Ngai," the House of God. Close to the western summit there is the dried and frozen carcass of a leopard. No one has explained what the leopard was seeking at that altitude.

[***Ernest Hemingway***](https://libquotes.com/ernest-hemingway) ***(The Fifth Column and The First Forty-Nine Stories. The Snows of Kilimanjaro, epigraph)***

[I] wish for you only that the strange thing may never fail you, whatever it is, that gives us the strength to live on and on with our wounds.

***Samuel Beckett, No Author Better Served: The Correspondence of Samuel Beckett and Alan Schneider***

**CAPTIONS**

**Image 1** - Ernst Haeckel, ‘Ascidiae’ , Plate 85 from  ‘Kunstformen der Natur (Artforms of Nature) , published 1904

(via The Library of Congress, Washington DC)

**Image 2** – Walter Yaggy, Geological Chart , From Yaggy's Geographical Portfolio, published 1893 by C.F. Rassweiler & Co. Chicago . Chromolithograph.  An Educational chart for use in the classroom

(The David Rumsey Historical Map Collection, San Francisco)

**Image 3**- J.V. Krombholz (1782 – 1843), Plate from ‘Lifelike Illustrations and descriptions of edible Mushrooms’. Published 1831

(via the Library of The Missouri Botanical Gardens )

**Image 4 :** Leonid meteor shower over Niagara Falls. Illustration from Edmund Weiss, Bilder-Atlas der Sternenwelt [Image atlas of the star world], Stuttgart, 1892

(The Smithsonian Library, Washington DC)

**Image 5 -** Tile with two rabbits, two snakes and a tortoise, illustration for thirteenth-century Marvels of Things Created and Miraculous Aspects of Things Existing byZakariya al-Qazwini, earthenware, moulded and underglaze-painted decoration, Iran, nineteenth century

(Musée du Louvre, Paris)

**Image 6** - A fold out page from the ‘Iskandar Horoscope’ showing the position of the planets at the moment of Jalāl al-Dīn Iskandar Sultan ibn ‘Umar Shaykh's birth on 25th April , 1384 CE in the form of a planisphere.

(The Wellcome Library , London)

**Image 7** - The Tree of Life - Tapestry, English, first half of 17th century Canvas worked with silk thread; tent, Gobelin, and couching stitches.

(The Victoria and Albert Museum, London)

**Image 8 -**Design for Mozart’s The Magic Flute: The Hall of Stars in the Palace of the Queen of the Night, Act 1, Scene 6.

Aquatint printed in colour and hand coloured, print by Karl Friedrich Thiele, after Karl Friedrich Schinkel’s original production designs from 1816, 1847–49

(The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York)

**Image 9 –** A Young Daughter of the Picts by Jacques Le Moyne de Morgues (French ca. 1533-88), watercolour and gouache, touched with gold on parchment, ca. 1588

Yale Center for British Art, Paul Mellon Collection

**Image 10. –** The Chromatic Scale , Table 5 , from A New Elucidation of Colour by James Sowerby, etching , watercolour and gum Arabic. London, 1809

Wellcome Collection, London

**Image 11 –**Three Crows against the Rising Sun, from the series Three Sheets (Mihira no uchi) by Totoya Hokkei (1780 – 1850) , part of an album of woodblock prints (surimono) , ink and colour on paper, Japan, mid 1810s

The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York