

Contents

Introduction... I

I

THE TROPICAL ARCHIPELAGO

100–34 Million Years Ago

- 1 Destination Europe... 9
- 2 Hateg's First Explorer... 14
- 3 Dwarfish, Degenerate Dinosaurs... 23
- 4 Islands at the Crossroads of the World... 27
- 5 Origins and Ancient Europeans... 31
- 6 The Midwife Toad... 36
- 7 The Great Catastrophe... 43
- 8 A Post-Apocalyptic World... 48
- 9 New Dawn, New Invasions... 54
- 10 Messel—a Window into the Past... 62
- 11 The European Great Coral Reef... 67
- 12 Tales from the Sewers of Paris... 71

II

BECOMING CONTINENTAL

34–2.6 Million Years Ago

- 13 La Grande Coupure... 81
- 14 Cats, Birds and Olms... 89
- 15 The Marvellous Miocene... 94

- 16 A Miocene Bestiary... 102
- 17 Europe's Extraordinary Apes... 110
- 18 The First Upright Apes... 114
- 19 Lakes and Islands... 122
- 20 The Messinian Salinity Crisis... 129
- 21 The Pliocene—Time of Laocoon... 133

III

ICE AGES

2.6 Million–38,000 Years Ago

- 22 The Pleistocene—Gateway to the Modern World... 145
- 23 Hybrids—Europe, the Mother of Metissage... 154
- 24 Return of the Upright Apes... 162
- 25 Neanderthals... 168
- 26 Bastards... 178
- 27 The Cultural Revolution... 184
- 28 Of Assemblages and Elephants... 191
- 29 Other Temperate Giants... 198
- 30 Ice Beasts... 204
- 31 What the Ancestors Drew... 213

IV

HUMAN EUROPE

38,000 Years Ago to the Future

- 32 The Balance Tips... 225
- 33 The Domesticators... 233

34 From the Horse to Roman Failure...239

35 Emptying the Islands...245

36 The Calm and the Storm...251

37 Survivors...259

38 Europe's Global Expansion...267

39 New Europeans...272

40 Animals of Empire...277

41 Europe's Bewolfing...285

42 Europe's Silent Spring...293

43 Rewilding...298

44 Re-creating Giants...307

Envoi...315

Acknowledgments...317

Endnotes...319

Index...347