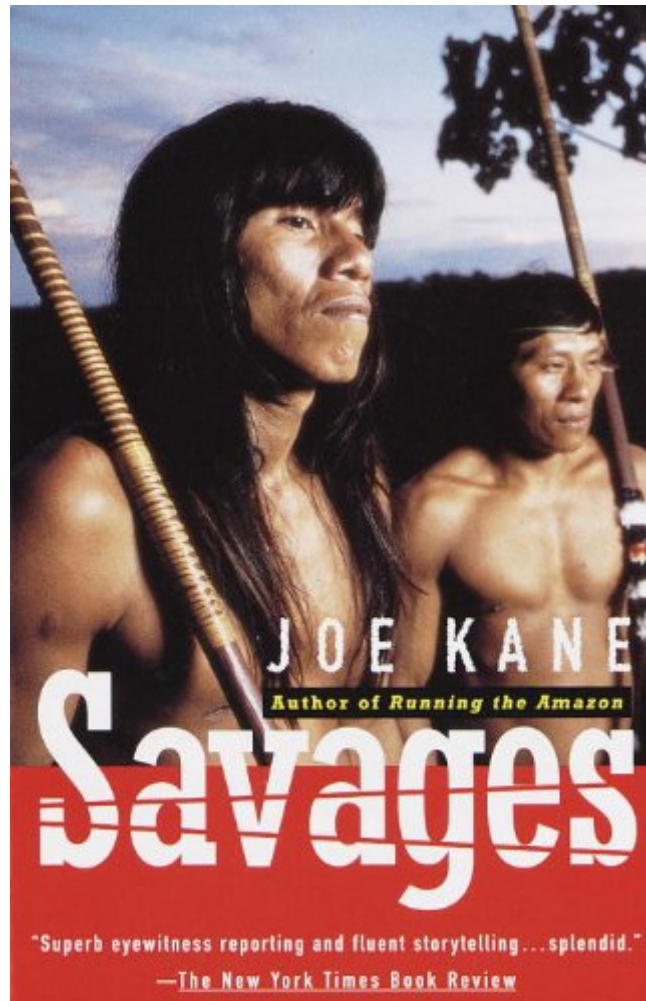




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Savages (Vintage Departures)



Synopsis

Savages is a firsthand account, by turn hilarious, heartbreaking, and thrilling, of a small band of indigenous warriors and their battle to preserve their way of life. Includes eight pages of photos. From the Trade Paperback edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Excellent. Just returned from Ecuador and I was very surprised when the first paragraph of the book described the exact departure point for my trip from Coca on the Napo River. There are no "good guys" in this story. Corrupt politicians, Greedy, irresponsible, and unethical oil companies in both the U.S. and Ecuador, Environmentalists that drop the ball. Joe Kane gives us a great understanding of the mentality of the 'uncontacted' natives of Ecuador.

This well-researched book shines because of the author's courage in much on site time with first hand experience and observation under conditions most of us would not risk. All in order to present the outside problems being presented to an ancient, indigenous people, the Huaorani Indians of Ecuador who live in a remote region of the rainforest being exploited by various oil companies that have little regard for the cultural effects on the peoples occupying for many eons this area.

Additionally, the effects on the animal life, the numerous polluting activities and the bringing in of many settlers to abuse and exploit this beautiful land all for the sake of a few more days of oil production in the world makes one question the ability of the human species to conduct themselves in an amoral fashion. And, of course, it was interesting hearing more about the activities of Ali Sharif, a world's expert in permaculture, often mentioned in this book. Similar to *The Beak of a Finch*, this book is a must read for those interested in the environment, social justice causes, anthropology, and other fields, including just general fun reading about something outside of one's usual frame of reference. So many people are giving of themselves to become one more shining light out there giving energy and hope to others that I am touched by their sacrifices for this planetary home of ours.

I was a slap-happy travel writer looking forward to experiencing the most bio-diverse country on the planet for its size. Ecuador is touted as a paradise for nature lovers with 46 different eco-systems, home to 1,600 bird species, 250 mammals, 358 amphibians 345 reptiles and 4,500 butterflies. Then I read Joe Kane's horrifying expose of what has been taking place in the forests of Ecuador in a region called the Oriente since the 1970's. Oil companies have systematically been destroying the forests, polluting the rivers with toxins that are destroying the beauty of the place and literally killing the indigenous people with toxic wastes and oil spills. The Trans-Ecuadorian Pipeline has suffered more than 60 major ruptures since 1972, spilling 614,000 barrels of oil into rivers and streams--more than two Exxon Valdez tankers' worth. How can this be happening in the poster child for eco-tourism? How can this continue in a world that is supposedly enlightened to the fact that the forests are the lungs of the planet and hold untapped medicinal knowledge? Kane lived with the Huaorani Indians in their villages, and befriended their greatest leaders, while maintaining a journalist's objectivity. His book is a sensitive, caring, thoroughly researched, deep look into the abuses of the oil companies. His account ends in 1996, but the travesties live on. "If oil exploration continues at the current rate, in another 30 years oil reserves will be exhausted, the last ancient cultures decimated and there won't be any wilderness left." Thomas Cook, Traveller's Guide, 2008. I am now saddened beyond words, but still looking forward to seeing what remains of Ecuador's glorious bounty. If the United States, the chief exploiter of Ecuador's natural resources, weans itself off oil there could be hope of a recovery before the entire Ecuadorian forest is fouled and the Indians way of life gone forever.[..]

I have spent time in Huaorani (Waorani) territory. Great read. Older book but a pretty accurate

depiction of the Wao's.

Well explained with documented facts while not forgetting to describe the emotional part (the indigenous culture itself, relations with the outside world and outsiders etc). We feel the love and kindness the author has for his main protagonists and he takes us with his love on their journey - where we end up glued to the pages hoping for a positive outcome.

If you are going to see Ecuador, this is a book you want to read to get a full story of the what is going on in oil exploration and the native peoples whose environment is being destroyed. I just visited Ecuador after I read this book. Ecuador is full of wonderful people and beautiful exciting places. This gives you a peek behind the curtain. The author's obvious love of these innocent beautiful people comes through and more than offsets any weaknesses in his writing skills. I hope he writes some more.

Amazing book. Even though it was written some time ago it proved to have relevance when I visited the area in 2013. Actually had the chance to meet Moi and to travel with him for several days in the Yasuni area. A must read if you're concerned about the environment, the and the plight of the locals trying to exist with "big oil" lurking.

An interesting read that gives you a glimpse at the life of the Huaorani people and their daily life structure and struggles, and the battle between big oil companies and the Ecuadorian region. Insightful, suspenseful, and gives a great history to a timeless culture, while also shedding light on some of the negative views and their inaccuracies of the people in the .

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