



Black Market: Inside the Endangered Species Trade in Asia

by Ben Davies
 Earth Aware Editions,
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This book is a bit of a rare species in itself. It's unusual for a book on this subject to be so well illustrated – poachers typically aren't keen on posing for the camera – and researched. Author Ben Davies, a Bangkok-based journalist, and producer Adam Oswell, travelled extensively throughout Asia to bring news from the front lines, where a war against the trade in endangered species is being fought – and lost.

A collection of short vignettes, reportage-style on-the-ground reports and essays relate the

complexity and breadth of the issues. Davies delves into the cultural beliefs that perpetuate the demand for rare and endangered animals and the reasons why people turn to poaching and smuggling. He also reports from remote Southeast Asian jungles and Heathrow Airport and describes a raid on a Bangkok house of horrors where, amid hacked-off limbs and flesh, six live tigers, five bears and two infant orangutans are found.

Not a book for the faint of heart, *Black Market* presents a bleak, grisly



and disturbing picture of the state of animal poaching and trafficking in Asia. To read this book is to gain a valuable understanding of the extent to which humans continue to plunder the planet. And, to use the words of the book's final sentence, it's a reminder that time is running out. **Christian Amodéo**