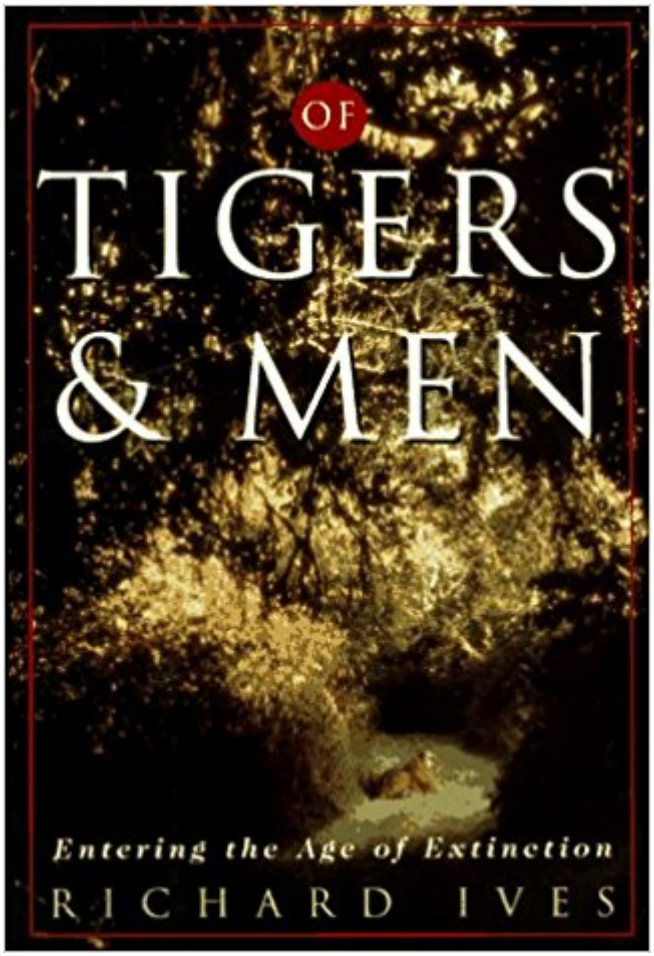
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Of Tigers And Men



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Synopsis

A naturalist describes his journey through the shrinking wild areas of India, Nepal, and Southeast Asia in search of the elusive and endangered tiger, profiling the conservators who have been fighting a losing battle to save the animal in its natural habitat.

Book Information

Hardcover: 304 pages

Publisher: Nan A. Talese; 1st edition (January 1, 1996)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 038547816X

ISBN-13: 978-0385478168

Product Dimensions: 1.2 x 6.5 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 16 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,244,755 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #100 inÃ Â Books > Science & Math > Biological Sciences > Animals > Cats, Lions & Tigers #1499 inÃ Â Books > Science & Math > Nature & Ecology > Nature Writing & Essays #4721 inÃ Â Books > Travel > Travel Writing

Customer Reviews

Ives travels through India, Nepal, and Southeast Asia in search of the rapidly disappearing tiger. Along the way, his encounters with the human friends and enemies of the tiger are reported with a remarkable attentiveness to the greatest nobility and basest selfishness of our own species. A gripping ecological journey. Highly Recommended.

A chance encounter with a former tiger hunter in Calcutta, India, inspired the author to search for wild tigers. The project took Ives, a naturalist and tour leader, to national parks in India, Nepal, Thailand and Sumatra over four years (1986-1990). He gives a vivid, gripping account of his travels and the people he met, and his report on tigers is disturbing. Ives learned that official estimates of tiger populations have been grossly inflated and that poaching for the lucrative Chinese market continues. In light of human population pressures and deforestation, the future appears bleak for the wild tiger. Ives believes the only way to preserve Asia’s natural heritage is through international parks supported by the wealthier nations. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Beautifully executed, the story of one man’s quest to explore and discover the wild tiger. Detailed

description of his experience in India and written with sensitivity and raw brutality, the images evoke feelings of sadness for the diminishing wild tiger and the realization that in short time, they will be an extinct species. It is a call to awareness of our wildlife in general and how man has little regard for the beauty of these animals. Poignantly written, it is a wonderful story and read...I highly recommend Mr. Ives' book.

I've read this book four times, and I look forward to reading it again a couple of years from now. It is a true story, superbly and thrillingly written. One learns a lot not only about tigers but also humans. The book sports a cast of intriguing characters, and the author is an honest, humble and masterful story-teller.

This book currently is out of print, which is troubling. First of all, its disapperance bodes ill for tiger, who certainly could have no more eloquent defender than Richard Ives. This is a book that, if read, could inspire people to work for the preservation of tiger. But while it is impossible to overestimate the book's value as a call to arms, it also is the story of a man who has chosen an improbable and difficult life and pursued it with admirable commitment. The book has been an inspiration for me since I found it in a shop in Paris on my way home from a two-and-a-half stint in the Peace Corps. If Richard Ives proves to be a Cassandra, his wise words on tiger and men ignored by everyone, then we are much the worse for it.

With lively, colorful narrative, Richard Ives makes this non-fiction book read like good fiction. Sadly, there is nothing fictional about the dire state of tigers. The theme that emerges from the adventures and personalities in this book is humankind's history of violent conflict with tigers--in which the big cats are ultimately always the losers--and the present-day greed and ignorance that are paving its extinction through poaching and habitat loss. Ives is deeply troubled by this, and to his credit he is doing something about it; Ives rightly connects human overpopulation with tiger destruction, and readers are encouraged to contribute to The Tiger Trust, one of few non-profits working to save tigers. But I found the book too tolerant of hunting--which it glamorizes with lengthy passages from the tiger-hunting maharaja era--and neglectful of the insidious role of meat-eating in bolstering biodiversity loss. In the end, I share the author's numbing frustration that governments aid and abet the plundering of forests and their fauna while humanity sits by, impending extinctions in full view, yet too full of our own hubris, or just too stupid, to stop it.

This book is both disturbing and entertaining to read. Ives chronicles a four year period in his life which starts in 1986 where he is a naturalist leading wildlife tours in India and Nepal. He decides he wants to write a book about tiger and by chance meets someone who will help him on his quest. He slowly comes to grips with the reality of extinction of the tiger and the impending destruction of the natural world from human encroachment.Sensitively written and thought provoking. Ives mentions The Tiger Trust in Chevington, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP29 5RG, United Kingdom tel (+44) 1284-851-001 - as at the time of writing the book - the only organization in the world whose specific and exclusive aim is the conservation of tigers in the wild. Valmik Thapar is also a good source of information on the current state of tiger. He runs the Ranthambore Foundation and has made several documentaries as well as written several books (available on). You can find more interesting info about him and tigers on wikipedia.

If the title had not been already taken, this book could have been called "Chronicle of a Death Foretold". As he takes us on his journey over Asia, Ives makes no bones about the ultimate fate of wild tigers: total extinction within 30 years. This would make for a grim book but for Ives' talent as a writer. Without pathos or over-sentimentality, he exposes facts, talks to park rangers and other naturologists to come to his conclusion. Very astutely, Ives understood that tigers "sell themselves" and you won't find impassionated speeches here: a good tiger story is worth a thousand of those. The book can be read on several levels: the author will entertain you with travel stories, get you interested in foreign cultures, astound you with his erudition, and scare the child in you who is still afraid of the wolf (I mean tiger!). Most of all, Ives will convince you with the force of his quiet logic. He made me (a dog person) care about those big cats. When he's done, you will get up from your arm-chair and think "We've got to save them!".

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