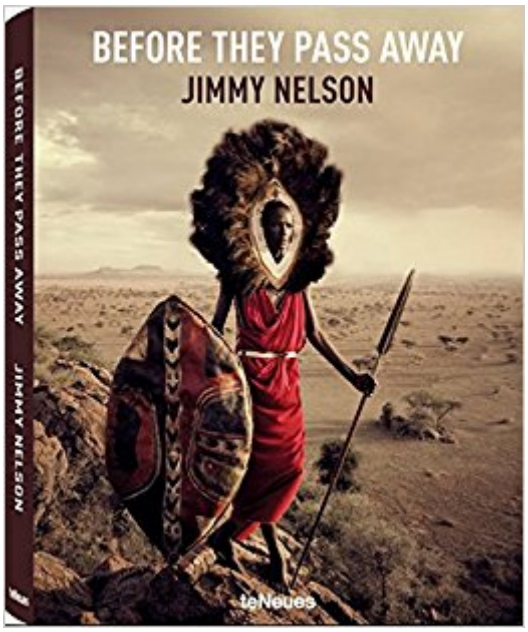
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Before They Pass Away



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Synopsis

This historic volume showcases tribal cultures around the world. With globalization, these societies are to be prized for their distinctive lifestyles, art and traditions. They live in close harmony with nature, now a rarity in our modern era. Jimmy Nelson not only presents us with stunning images of customs and artifacts, but also offers insightful portraits of people who are the guardians of a culture that they--and we--hope will be passed on to future generations in all its glory. Nelson’s large-plate field camera captures every intricate detail and fine nuance for posterity. What’s more, this splendid pageantry is set against a vivid backdrop of some of the world’s most pristine landscapes. English/German/French edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

For sheer splendor, the catwalks of New York, Milan and Paris combined can barely touch the eagle hunters of Mongolia. Riding squat ponies through the mountains, these Turkic peoples wear high-domed and winged fur hats, embroidered felt boots and leggings, cloaks of reindeer hide, studded metal belts, fearsome hooded eagles perched on their arms. The fierce elegance of their clothing fully matches that of the stark landscape they inhabit; it also, and not incidentally, testifies to the irrepressible human will to beautify. That conclusion inevitably results from viewing "Before They Pass Away," the British photographer Jimmy Nelson’s tombstone-size new volume (teNeues, $150) documenting vanishing tribal cultures around the world. The book results from a project taking years and is less ethnology or anthropology than a document of his romance with otherness. In his

strenuous travels with an archaic studio camera, Mr. Nelson visited 35 of the world's least known and most imperiled tribal peoples -- from the Huli and Kalam tribes of New Guinea, to the Tsaatan of Mongolia and the Mursi people inhabiting the highlands of the Omo River valley in remote southern Ethiopia. Guy Trebay, New York Times.com Fashion and Style Section, October 18, 2013The ingenuity of tribal societies shines in "Before They Pass Away"...Nelson brings the expressive personalities further to life with a photographic style derived from Irving Penn and Malik Sidibe, making for a visually rich and fascinating read-and an ideal conversation-starter on any well-curated coffee table.Fabio Morelli, Elle DÃƒÂ©cor.com, October 8, 2013Jimmy Nelson has spent the past three years traveling to some of the most remote places on Earth capturing the lives of indigenous people, from the frigid moutains of Mongolia to the endless sandy deserts of Namibia.Drama and emotion are crucial to Nelson's photography because he's on a search for beauty. Lorraine Boissoneault, weather.com, October 1, 2013

I am going to make a few negative comments, in particular about some of the unnecessary expressions of criticism that have been levelled about the assembling of this work. Something I don't normally like to do, because I think everybody is entitled to their opinion.To say that Jimmy Nelson is living & duplicating other peoples previous efforts is grossly incorrect, the very fact that these same self appointed critics comment on the quality of the photography proves that this is not the case. I don't believe he is trying to prove anything, other than he has a dream & what he says he is trying to get to do & that is to depict what he's looking for in his photography, circumstances change & so does equipment. What was done 100 years ago could have been in black & white, these latest depictions are definitely not, they are magnificent.To be able to even reach some of these locations is an achievement in itself, it not only takes a long & extensive effort to get there, it can also be quite dangerous, sometimes you require armed assistants just to ensure your safety on the journey & you can keep everything together.The comments that these indigenous people are not disappearing is also naÃƒÆ'Ã Â ve, to travel to some of these remote areas & then find the local inhabitants with TV's & mobile phones is a testament to that in itself.I look at these photographs & yes I believe they are produced with an effort to depict some people in a period of bygone days & some circumstances that could no longer exist, but I am possibly never going to be able to travel to many of these outer areas in my lifetime & I certainly can't go back in time. It won't be that much longer before these photographs will no longer be possible for many other reasons, including things like "Global Warming". I find nothing wrong with anything that has been depicted here.I think Beethoven was once accused of trying to duplicate works of Mozart, possibly the case. I

think having heard that Beethoven moved on.In the meantime, I'm going to look at this book, admire Jimmy Nelson's efforts for what they are & I wish I had been able to do this with him, other than via this book. If he puts out another book I will try & get that too.

Wonderful, wonderful book. Ideal coffee table book for my home; visitors sit there entranced looking at photographs of people from small/rare cultures that are on the verge of disappearing thanks to the encroachment of modern technology and modern life. This book documents these cultures, perhaps in something of a flashy, artificial way, but in an important way nevertheless. Just as photos of the Civil War or the early American West may have been posed or somehow created, yet they helped people to understand and define what was going on. I believe this book does the same thing. In a few years, these cultures will be gone or dying. These images may be all that's left for the non-scholar/non-researcher to find.The photos in the book are just plain beautiful. Each tells its own story, without words, but with the visual connection the reader has to the photograph and the subject of the photo, along with the physical and social environment of each culture as depicted in the images.Yes, the book is pricey. The question is whether it's worth the money. The answer for me (and hopefully for you) is Yes.

I love this book and have recommended it to others. If you like to travel or to live vicariously through pictures, and you love cinematographic photos, this is the book for you. Also, the text is unlike many table books as it is brief and gets to the point relatively quickly so it is not like reading an encyclopedia (or Wikipedia for that matter). I love this book and envy the author for what had to be unforgettable and amazingly unique exposure to those photographed. I like that they were stylized photos as many tribal people live quite modern lives, yet continue to honor their culture (like the MÃƒâ Ã Â•ori, whose warrior past is not too dissimilar to that of the Zulus, who were not photographed). I just wish I could have been there with him, but perhaps this is as close as I will get to some, even though I have been a visitor to many countries photographed.

This isn't just a great book. It's a deeply important book that feels more like you have a world-class museum in your hands. The pictures, of course, are astounding, but there's something about seeing all of these remote peoples that really impacts you as you look.The book is organized by "tribe", basically: There are a few dozen sections each devoted to one group of people living in Africa, Tibet, Siberia, Bornea, South America etc...At the beginning of each section there's a page-long intro to that people, with sections on their history, beliefs, and how they live day-to-day. And then

the images come and you see faces that are identical in some cases to faces that existed many thousands of years ago. But they, and their cultures, are still around today.The world is changing so quickly that it is astonishing to see all of these different ancient people in one place. And it is all the more amazing when you realize that these are indeed PEOPLE: Humans, who live lives that are almost unimaginable to those of us in post-industrial societies.Again, this isn't just a great book. It's a vitally important work that will haunt and delight you. If you were considering buying a copy, don't: Just buy it. You won't regret it, not for an instant. It's amazing. (And BIG.)

The photos are amazing but would have been even more stunning if it were on a glossier paper. I've seen a collection of these photos in the African Museum in Berg en Dal and know they can be much sharper and even more impressive.A couple of the pages in the book I received had been damaged in its making and were stuck together and had to be cut apart, a shame for such a lovely and fairly expensive book.

An astonishingly beautiful book, powerful photos of people and communities around the world. You will see amazing ethic dress and ornamentation. But you will gaze at the faces, which look back at you with dignity and an open heart, and see the humanity in each one.

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