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## Customer Reviews

### Savages

23 Reviews

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23 of 23 people found the following review helpful:

**One of the best books I've ever read!**, January 4, 2001

By **A Customer**

This review is from: **Savages (Paperback)**

I first read this book about two years ago and have since given copies as gifts to friends and have passed my own copy about to many colleagues. I work in the oil industry and I believe that this book is a MUST READ for all foreign workers in the Amazon region. My field of work involves protecting the interests of the local people and the health of the environment and I can assure the previous reviewer that while the oil companies have much to answer for historically that there is a small army of us working on the inside and who have found Savages to be one of the best books around. Joe Kane writes in journalistic style presenting events as they unfolded and he sheds light on several issues relating to foreign activity in developing countries that are seldom thought about by those who participate in the "invasion". Mr Kane's writing had me in fits of laughter at times and at other times I was in tears. By the end of the book I felt that I almost knew the people whose lives were discussed and I certainly closed the cover with a new understanding and questions that I had not asked myself before. Anyone contemplating a trip to the jungle of Ecuador, or other Amazonian nation, should make a point of reading this book. It is factual, interesting and tells a real life drama that describes the beginning of what will probably be the final days of the isolated people of the Amazon. It will be up to you as the reader to form an opinion on the situation as Kane doesn't do it for you. He does however raise the interesting question that may not be answered easily - what rights do isolated people have to remain isolated and completely unaffected by the development of the world? Read Savages for yourself and see if you can answer that question.

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2 of 2 people found the following review helpful:

**A must read**, October 28, 2000

By **Leland E. G. Larson "buzzylee"** (Portland, Oregon USA) - [See all my reviews](#)

Amazon Verified Purchase [\(What's this?\)](#)

This review is from: **Savages (Paperback)**

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 effect 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.

### This product



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 (Paperback - August 27, 1996)  
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4 of 4 people found the following review helpful:

**Great humour, deep sympathy and lots of action,**  
September 15, 1999

By [A. Lichtenberg "Sprachenfreund"](#) (Köln, Deutschland) - [See all my reviews](#)

This review is from: [Savages \(Hardcover\)](#)

Kane gives a very sympathetic yet never condoning view of a people that comes an incredible long way to take up the challenge of the most powerful industries in the world: the oil industry! The author relates his experiences with great humour reflecting one of the most outstanding characteristics of the Huaorani: they seem to be able to laugh a lot in spite of it all! A most touching yet also entertaining book.

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22 of 31 people found the following review helpful:

**Savages would have benefited from the use of anthropology,**  
August 8, 1999

By **A Customer**

This review is from: [Savages \(Hardcover\)](#)

One of my professors used this book in an anthropology graduate seminar at Berkeley to examine the concept of field work, and the types of knowledge that field work imparts. We found this book to be very instructive in the values and practice of journalists as our society's "instant experts" as opposed to anthropologists who spend decades studying the cultures they write about. We were all struck by how little time Kane actually spent conducting fieldwork, how absorbed he was with himself, and we were shocked to see what little regard he gave to actually learning the language of the people he claimed to be so interested in studying. This book can teach readers quite a bit about how journalists study the world, and should not be confused with the field of anthropology (as the book's jacket blurbs would have it).

I do not wish to be overly harsh with this book for it does inform general readers of some important developmental issues facing indigenous peoples the world over. The information gathered outside of the field setting does present vital data on the travesties of the petroleum industry (though the author does ignore an embarrassing amount of published anthropological work on the Huaorani). This is the book's strength, but the degree to which it exoticizes the Huaorani (even given Kane's attempt at irony in naming his book) as (noble) Savages overly simplifies a complex situation, as deadline pressed journalists often do.

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6 of 7 people found the following review helpful:

**A wonderful book! Makes you feel you know the Huarani.,**  
July 24, 1999

By **A Customer**

This review is from: [Savages \(Hardcover\)](#)

Before reading this book, I knew nothing about the Amazon and wasn't that interested. Now, even though it's been half a year since I finished the book, I find myself thinking about Moi, Enquiri, Judith, and the rest. Joe Kane also did a good job explaining the very complicated situation with the oil companies. I was inspired to hit the library for more books on the Amazon and the people there. It's also inspired me to check in with Rainforest Action Network and write a few letters. One of my favorite books ever.

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3 of 4 people found the following review helpful:

**A book that will open your eyes...,** April 26, 1999

By **A Customer**

This review is from: [Savages \(Paperback\)](#)

Savages is not the kind of story you read and promptly forget about. While living in Ecuador, I borrowed the book from a friend and was shocked how Texaco and other companies are destroying the Ecuadorian rainforests, polluting the land, and

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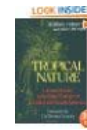


[Savages: A Novel](#) by Don Winslow  
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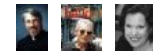
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obliterating indigeneous tribes and cultures. If you want to read a book that will open your eyes to reality, read Joe Kane's book.

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**Objective & informative**, April 16, 1999

By **A Customer**

This review is from: [Savages \(Hardcover\)](#)

I enjoyed this book very much because it gave a great overview of a tribe that was being affected by oil industries. The destruction of the rainforest to have a few dqys of gas is not worth it. I just visited the rainforest in Ecuador, and it was definitely something to preserve. A great movie with the same story is "Trinkets & Beads." It is a bit expensive to rent, and very hard to find, but extremely worth it. Read the book, then see this documentary.

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**This is one of the best books I've ever read.**, August 5, 1998

By **A Customer**

This review is from: [Savages \(Hardcover\)](#)

Joe Kane's perspective is extraordinarily balanced. His approach to the complex realities is balanced, despite his biases. His account is compelling and unforgettable. At the end I sensed how delicate the Huaroni's and other indigenous tribe's existence is, with sadness. And yet his final words contain hope. Kane poses the most hard-hitting questions to the right people and summarizes this difficult picture with succinct and near poetic sentences.

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**Impressive and powerful work**, February 3, 1998

By **A Customer**

This review is from: [Savages \(Hardcover\)](#)

I appreciate the way he writes about the Huorani as neither saints nor sinners, simply people looking to save a way of life that is worth saving. It is both depressing and inspiring. An excellent companion piece to Daniels Quinn's "MY ISHMAEL" as it outlines many topics he discusses in that book, even more than those of Ishmael.

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2 of 2 people found the following review helpful:

**Kane's style is enchanting; his subject matter fascinating**,

December 25, 1996

By **A Customer**

This review is from: [Savages \(Paperback\)](#)

In Savages, Kane conveys the dire importance of understanding and respecting the traditional practices of the Huaorani Indians of Ecuador. Kane examines through personal experience their struggle to maintain identity, land, and dignity in the face of oil companies, missionaries, and economic progress. The author demonstrates journalistic reporting at its very best and assures the reader a sincere and responsible account of the matters at hand. This book should be read by anyone interested in the future of humankind

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