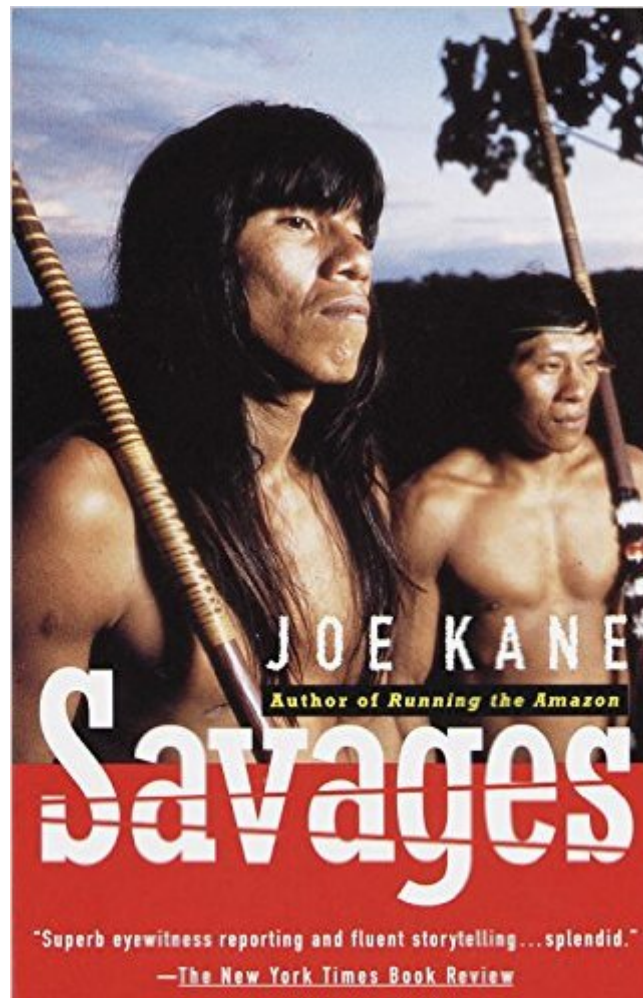


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# Savages



## 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.

## Book Information

Paperback: 304 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (41 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #56,718 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #2 in [Books > History > Americas > South America > Ecuador](#) #4 in [Books > Travel > South America > Brazil >](#) #5 in [Books > Travel > South America > Ecuador & Galapagos Islands](#)

## Customer Reviews

Although this book has been criticized by people with a background in anthropology, as a practicing anthropologist (with research expertise in media studies), I beg to disagree. Certainly, the book has weaknesses, and the fieldwork it is based on was flawed. Yet it presents a balanced view of peoples -- if one reads carefully one finds that they are NOT merely portrayed as "noble savages." Moreover, the book has a chance of reaching a FAR greater audience than most anthropology works ever do. I aspire to write as compellingly as Kane; it's about time anthropology had more of an impact on the world. I have done research and writing that is critical of journalists and journalism, but I'm aware that anthropological fieldwork is far from perfect, either. Instead of taking pot shots at a nuanced, in-depth view of the geo-political problems of indigenous peoples, we should celebrate the possibilities of collaborating with journalists as careful and sensitive as Kane.

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 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 ian 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 . 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.

Joe Kane, author of best selling '*Running the* ', has tackled a subject often thought of as being the job of anthropologists and the like. As a reporter, Kane has done a good job of relaying details such as the environment the Huaorani live in and the details of the oil industry that looms over their part of the Ecuadorian . As mentioned in another review, the anthropological insite Kane offers in response to Huaorani culture and how it has changed and adapted to its situation leaves something to be desired. That said, I do not find this to be a problem. Kane is writing for an audience that would probably find most anthropological scholarly texts dry and uninteresting, but he has managed to explain the conflict that has arisen due to oil exploitation in the rainforest, all the while demonstrating the effects this exploitation has on humans in the area. I wa spleased to see that Kane demonstrated how the Huaorani have formed a sort of resistance to the destruction of the environment they call home by using conduits provided by external political groups, thus demonstrating how the marginalized make themselves known. The book is engagingly written and Kane, while unable to hide his anti-corporate and anti-oil exploitation sentiments (with which I agree), has made a worthy case for the halting of oil exploitation at the level it was (and still is) being carried on in the .

Before reading this book, I knew nothing about the 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 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.

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 a moral 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.

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