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Vanishing Africa



Synopsis

This book represents months of work of planning and in the field, but above all it is a tribute to the eternal beauty of Africa; the photographs and text 'steal' from the peoples of the Omo a fragment of their mystery and truth. But with delicacy and respect. By examining a small region in the heart of the continent, the book attempts to trace the roots of remotest Africa; the cradle of man, where ancestral bonds with nature still exist. It is a place where the link with the dark side of existence is not hidden, as happens in the West, but exhibited. By means of his camera and his pen, in this book the author has encapsulated long years of study of the most interesting peoples and ethnic groups in Africa. Centered around a series of extraordinary photographs, the book is a sort of reportage from the edge of the world, in search of vanishing Africa.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Although I feel the spectacular new work of Hans Silvester, as well as "African Ark" (Beckwith/Fisher), can't be beat for beautiful pictures of tribal Ethiopia, I wouldn't want to be without this book, either. Having twice visited 9 of the 10 tribes covered in "Vanishing Africa," this book mentions places and peoples I've seen. The book is basically a travelog of notes and photos by Giansanti, who, having never been there before, was asked by the publisher to do a photo essay on the people of the area. The difference between this book and the vacation stories and slides of a neighbor is that Giansanti is a professional photographer who had the resources to get around (he hired a small private plane, for example) and to take the time required for creating such a beautiful work. And the pictures are excellent. The book covers a finite geographical area and a map shows

the layout of the ten tribal territories. The promotional hype tends to give the impression this book is the result of many long years of study of these locations. Giansanti, being new to the area, is supported by the historical and cultural notes of historian and traveler Paolo Novaresio. But Novaresio has spent most of his time in other parts of Africa; indeed, Ethiopia is not even mentioned in his detailed bio. Still, the information seems credible and adequate. The tribes that are covered still exist today much as they did centuries ago. There aren't many places left like this in the world. Still, we have to realize that if a Land Cruiser or airplane can get there, obviously modernity has significantly encroached. Books like this understandably do not tend to highlight that encroachment.

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