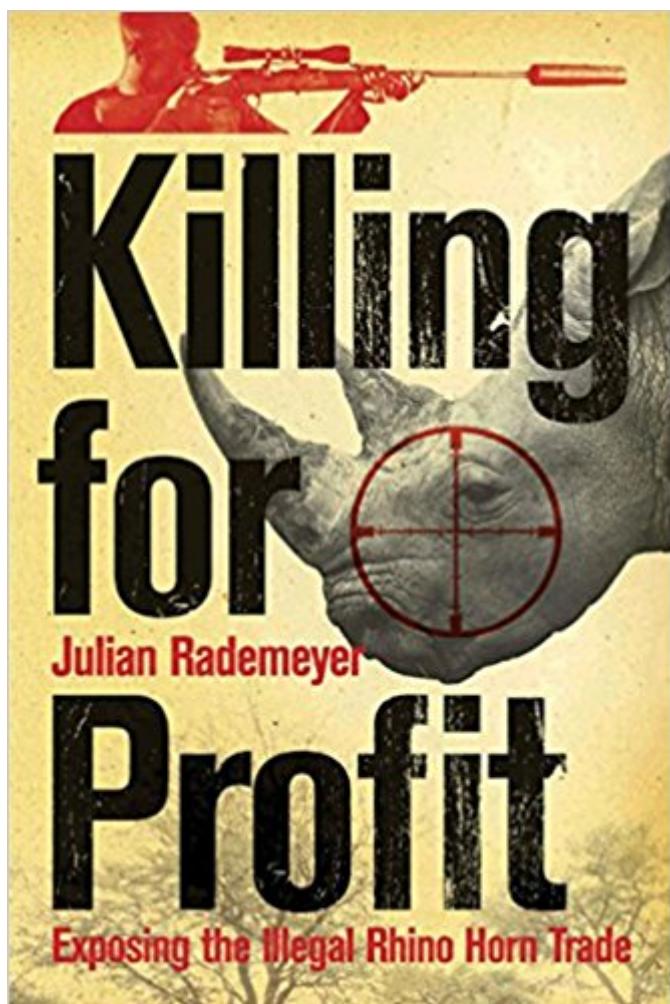


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# Killing For Profit: Exposing The Illegal Rhino Horn Trade



## **Synopsis**

A terrifying true story of greed, corruption, depravity and ruthless criminal enterprise . . . On the black markets of Southeast Asia, rhino horn is worth more than gold, cocaine and heroin. This is the chilling story of a two-year-long investigation into a dangerous criminal underworld where merciless syndicates will stop at nothing to attain their prize. It is a tale of greed, folly and corruption, and of an increasingly desperate battle to save the rhino - which has survived for more than 50 million years - from extinction. *Killing for Profit* is a meticulous, devastating and revelatory account of one of the world's most secretive trades. It exposes poachers, gangsters, con men, mercenaries, killers, gunrunners, diplomats, government officials and other key players behind the slaughter. And it follows the bloody trail from the front lines of the rhino wars in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Mozambique to the medicine markets of Vietnam and the lair of a wildlife-trafficking kingpin on the banks of the Mekong River in Laos . . .

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

*Killing for Profit* by Julian Rademeyer is an eye-opening and horrifying two year investigation into the poaching and trafficking of rhinoceros, which threatens to make these mammals, which have survived on earth for over 50 million years, and extinct species. Southeast Asia pharmaceutical markets are the ones buying these prized horns, and they are paying prices higher than gold or cocaine or heroin! And who besides the poachers are involved in these criminal slaughters of the near-sighted, helpless beasts? There are greedy syndicates who use gangsters, con men, mercenaries, killers, poachers, gunrunners, crime bosses and even diplomats and government

officials (bribed enormously under the table.) The countries fighting this trade are South Africa, Zimbabwe and Mozambique, but the war against these corrupt, money hungry thugs makes dangerous conditions for those seeking to stop the atrocities against rhinos, all because the Asian population believes the horns are aphrodisiacs! For centuries the Asian people have believed that powdered rhino horns would cure everything from hang-overs to cancer, and although modern science has disproved this, the people still want to buy it, so Asian pharmaceutical companies and shops keep it in stock, resulting in thousands of rhinos being systematically slaughtered each year. The new rich in these countries don't care how much it costs or that it is illegal and still believe in not only the medicinal qualities but also want the horn to display as a prized status symbol of wealth. So sad, but the book is intriguing to see how far people will go either to destroy or save a species, which is irreplaceable on this earth!

JULIAN RADEMEYER is an award-winning investigative journalist who, for nearly 20 years, has written and worked for City Press, Beeld, The Witness, the Sunday Times, Pretoria News, The Herald, Reuters, the Sydney Morning Herald and the Australian Associated Press (AAP). Until recently he was chief reporter for Media24 Investigations. He has reported from a number of countries, including Somalia, Equatorial Guinea, Niger, Mozambique, Namibia, Belarus, India, Egypt and the Lebanon, where he covered the 2006 "Summer War". He has won a number of awards, notably the 2005 Vodacom Journalist of the Year award for print news and the 2009 Mondi Shanduka Newspaper Award for hard news. He has twice been a finalist for the Taco Kuiper Award, South Africa's leading investigative journalism prize. His work has been published in two books: *Troublemakers: The Best of South Africa's Investigative Journalism* and the BY *Bedkassieboek*, a compilation of the best of Afrikaans newspaper writing. He lives in Johannesburg, South Africa.

I read this book prior to leaving for south Africa on a safari. I found the book and enlightning and disturbing. The criminal mastermind behind the slaughter of the rhinos coming from Southeast Asia is appalling.

Exceptionally well written, this is searing investigative journalism at its best. Rademayer takes the reader right into every aspect of the evil that is the rhino horn trade. He writes with clarity, immediacy, regardless of wether you are with poachers in the bush in Mozambique, on a game farm with the farmers who traffic in phony hunts, in Johannesburg, in China, Rademayer puts you right in

the scene. Packed full of searing details, shocking history, colorful characters in this rhino war, the reader is taken on an important journey right into the heart of this tragic situation. It behoves one to know what is going on. This book will educate you.

Huge amount of research done in this book - exposes many facets of corruption and greed in the countries where the few remaining vestiges of wildlife can be found - especially in Africa and South Africa where the rhino's still cling to survival. Extremely depressing that the mass of poulation in China and Vietnam fervently believe that wild animal products have magic properties which will be able to fix their miserable human lives. Having been to both countries and seen how they view wildlife as just a commodity to be exploited, bodes disaster in the future and the total extinction of many species over the next 20 - 50 years. When political figures and criminal leaders are in cahoots where there are huge sums of money to be made, there seems to be no hope of stopping killing for profit.

Authoratitive account by seasoned journalist and now researcher at the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime, it gives a powerful insight into the criminal activity behind the trade in rhino horn. Julian Rademeyer's story-telling style makes the book easy to read and it is full of intriguing anecdotes and solid facts.

For the first time, as a result of reading this book, I have a clearer understanding of the pressures driving the corrupt trade in rhino horn, ivory, and other endangered species. This book explains, in a clear, roughly chronological fashion, the explosion in rhino slaughter in Africa -after the Vietnamese and Chinese demand has already resulted in the extinction of the native Asian rhino. Make no mistake - the present poaching rates are unsustainable, are supported by the "legal" hunting permits sold by corrupt government officials in South Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia, etc. and will allow for the senseless demand in Vietnam and China to cause the extinction of the African rhino and elephant as well. An important book which does a great job exposing the trade in endangered species.

The attitude of most people about this sort of problem is dictated mainly by sentiment and emotion. That is quite natural and there is nothing wrong with that. This book takes the reader beyond that. It makes quite clear how involved and difficult the problem is. That there is no easy solution is quite clear once the book has been read. It is then also quite clear that no country where Rhino are found can possibly solve the problem on its own. It will need some very hard thinking and action by all the

parties involved. The books should be required reading for every person who is interested in the preservation of wild life and especially of all members of governments and officials where the preservation of wild life is in any way at all difficult.

This is a must read, especially for those living in Taiwan, Vietnam and Mozambique. I had to switch off my Kindle on several occasions in order to catch my breath. The insatiable greed of humankind will no doubt lead to the extinction of everything, including himself. The horrid facts of man's rotting core - as portrayed in this book - almost made me literally sick. My sincere thanks to the author and the remaining honest people defending endangered (and any other) animals.

An engrossing and jaw-droppingly unpredictable crime thriller.. When the reality strikes home that this is non-fiction it becomes heart wrenching and infuriating. Everyone needs to know.. Spread the word

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