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Prey (English Edition)



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: **Prey (English Edition)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Prey (English Edition):

Description :

Prsentation de l'diteur200 extraordinary images of the worlds most magnificent wildlife, those awe inspiring creatures that we have driven to the brink of extinction the predators that have become the prey.Beauty, innocence, power. These are the three qualities that, for me, define the fascination of predators. Yet to many people they will sound like contradictions. Few would deny the beauty of the big cats, or the elegance of their movements, perhaps without recognizing that much of their beauty lies in their power: they are perfectly put together, perfectly co-ordinated hunting machines. A bird of prey plummeting on to its quarry; a great white shark powering through the oceans; a grizzly bear snatching a salmon from a sparkling river these too are magnificent creatures, beautiful in their efficiency and dominance over their environment.But innocent? Yes. The most powerful predator, be it a tiger or a polar bear, can be incredibly tender with others of its kind. It is impossible to be indifferent to the dedication of a mother who struggles against all the odds a pitiless climate, a diminishing habitat, a territory full of dangerous rivals to raise her cubs. She sacrifices everything, sometimes for years, to ensure that they reach adulthood and can embark on the same struggle themselves. It is absurd to attribute human motives such as viciousness or cruelty to these animals. That is not why they kill. Predation is their nature, their very essence. They do it in order to survive.This unique, enthralling combination of qualities is what I hope to show in this book. I have always loved wildlife, but in real life I am a businessman, with a background in finance. I run a family business in Lebanon, dealing in medical equipment and supplies as far removed as you can imagine from a wildlife photographer. But seven years ago I discovered photography and it ignited a different spark in me. Since then I have travelled over 250,000 km and spent around 1,000 hours photographing in the field. From being the most impatient person in the world, I have turned into someone who will happily spend hours on an elephant back waiting for a tiger to stretch his powerful limbs in the morning sunlight. From being very competitive, always needing to see a result from anything I undertook, I have embarked on an impossible quest the search for the perfect image. Hand in hand with the passion for photography, I have discovered a passion for the predators themselves. For the creatures who may just may one day provide me with that perfect shot.In the photos on

these pages, I want to show how magnificent predators are. But I also want to alert people to the fact that every species portrayed here is endangered and most are on the brink of extinction. I want everyone who looks at these images to feel the urge to do something about it. The animals shown here are at our mercy. They have become the Prey. We humans are the predators in the modern world. The wild is the only place to see wild creatures. What you see in zoos and wildlife parks is not the reality. It is better to see truly wild animals in photographs or on film than to see a poor substitute behind bars. Captive-breeding programmes that intend to release animals back into the wild are expensive and fraught with difficulties, the greatest of all being finding a way to teach these creatures the skills they will need in order to survive. No, what we need more than anything is to protect their habitat. The Masai Mara Reserve in Kenya is such a paradise for predators that it has been given a special section in this book, yet even it is under threat because of human/animal conflict. If we are to save these precious areas, and the animals that depend on them, we must all play our part. We have no right to imprison or to exterminate wild creatures. It is their planet too.

200 extraordinary images of the world's most magnificent wildlife, those awe-inspiring creatures that we have driven to the brink of extinction, the predators that have become the prey. Beauty, innocence, power. These are the three qualities that, for me, define the fascination of predators. Yet to many people they will sound like contradictions. Few would deny the beauty of the big cats, or the elegance of their movements, perhaps without recognizing that much of their beauty lies in their power: they are perfectly put together, perfectly co-ordinated hunting machines. A bird of prey plummeting on to its quarry; a great white shark powering through the oceans; a grizzly bear snatching a salmon from a sparkling river – these too are magnificent creatures, beautiful in their efficiency and dominance over their environment. But innocent? Yes. The most powerful predator, be it a tiger or a polar bear, can be incredibly tender with others of its kind. It is impossible to be indifferent to the dedication of a mother who struggles against all the odds in a pitiless climate, a diminishing habitat, a territory full of dangerous rivals to raise her cubs. She sacrifices everything, sometimes for years, to ensure that they reach adulthood and can embark on the same struggle themselves. It is absurd to attribute human motives such as viciousness or cruelty to these animals. That is not why they kill. Predation is their nature, their very essence. They do it in order to survive. This unique, enthralling combination of qualities is what I hope to show in this book. I have always loved wildlife, but in real life I am a businessman, with a background in finance. I run a family business in Lebanon, dealing in medical equipment and supplies as far removed as you can imagine from a wildlife photographer. But seven years ago I discovered photography and it ignited a different spark in me. Since then I have travelled over 250,000 km and spent around 1,000 hours photographing in the field. From being the most impatient person in the world, I have turned into someone who will happily spend hours on an elephant back waiting for a tiger to stretch his powerful limbs in the morning sunlight. From being very competitive, always needing to see a result from anything I undertook, I have embarked on an impossible quest – the search for the perfect image. Hand in hand with the passion for photography, I have discovered a passion for the predators themselves. For the creatures who may just one day provide me with that perfect shot. In the photos on these pages, I want to show how magnificent predators are. But I also want to alert people to the fact that every species portrayed here is endangered and most are on the brink of extinction. I want everyone who looks at these images to feel the urge to do something about it. The animals shown here are at our mercy. They have become the Prey. We humans are the predators in the modern world. The wild is the only place to see wild creatures. What you see in zoos and wildlife parks is not the reality. It is better to see truly wild animals in photographs or on film than to see a poor substitute behind bars. Captive-breeding programmes that intend to release animals back into the wild are expensive and fraught with difficulties, the greatest of all being finding a way to teach these creatures the skills they will need in order to survive. No, what we need more than anything is to protect their habitat. The Masai Mara Reserve in Kenya is such a paradise for predators that it has been given a special section in this book, yet even it is under threat because of human/animal conflict. If we are to save these precious areas, and the animals that depend on them, we must all play our part. We have no right to imprison or to exterminate wild creatures. It is their planet too.