The book was found

The Scent Of Scandal: Greed, Betrayal, And The World's Most Beautiful Orchid (Florida History And Culture)



AND THE WORLD'S MOST BEAUTIFUL ORCHID

Craig Pittman



Synopsis

After its Peruvian discovery in 2002, Phragmipedium kovachii became the rarest and most sought-after orchid in the world. Prices soared to \$10,000 on the black market. Then one showed up at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, where every year more than 100,000 people visit. They come for the lush landscape on Sarasota Bay and for Selby's vast orchid collection, one of the most magnificent in the world. The collision between Selby's scientists and the smugglers of Phrag. Kovachii, a rare ladyslipper orchid hailed as the most significant and beautiful new species discovered in a century, led to search warrants, a grand jury investigation, and criminal charges. It made headlines around the country, cost the gardens hundreds of thousands of dollars in donations, and led to tremendous internal turmoil.Investigative journalist Craig Pittman unravels this tangled web to shine a spotlight on flaws in the international treaties governing trade in endangered wildlife--which may protect individual plants and animals in shipping but do little to halt the destruction of whole colonies in the wild. The Scent of Scandal unspools like a riveting mystery novel, stranger than anything in Susan Orlean's The Orchid Thief or the film Adaptation. Pittman shows how some people can become so obsessed--with beauty, with profit, with fame--that they will ignore everything, even the law.

Book Information

File Size: 1970 KB Print Length: 321 pages Publisher: University Press of Florida (March 18, 2012) Publication Date: March 18, 2012 Sold by: Â Digital Services LLC Language: English ASIN: B008B1TJL6 Text-to-Speech: Enabled X-Rav: Not Enabled Word Wise: Enabled Lending: Not Enabled Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled Best Sellers Rank: #375,806 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #16 inA Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Gardening & Horticulture > Flowers > Orchids #20 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Science > Biological Sciences >

Plants > Flowers #43 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Gardening & Landscape Design > Flowers > Orchids

Customer Reviews

Investigative journalist Craig Pittman had covered plenty of crazy people by the time he stepped onto the tranquil grounds of Sarasota's Marie Selby Botanical Gardens to report on a case of orchid smuggling in 2003. There was the triple killer he interviewed on Death Row who took to writing him letters with smiley faces dotting the i's. There was the woman so in love with manatees she left a date to wade into the water with them fully clothed, then tackled a major political campaign on their behalf. Pittman's second book even had crazy in the name: "Manatee Insanity."But none of that came close to the maniacal obsession to possess and name a new orchid discovered growing on a hillside in northern Peru. The petals of Phragmipedium kovachii stretch up like hot-pink fairy wings poised to soar away with the swollen pouch that makes it a "slipper orchid." The story of how it got to Selby, and how reputable scientists lost their minds in the race to be first to describe it, makes for incredible reading in "The Scent of Scandal: Greed, Betrayal, and the World's Most Beautiful Orchid."If it were fiction, "The Scent of Scandal" might be skewered for improbability: A Ph.D. taxonomist named Guido who punches out a cop. Not one but two collectors trying to pitch the idea of a wild-orchid-hunter reality show -- starring themselves as the macho leading man.Pittman is on staff at the Tampa Bay Times, where he has established himself as one of the nation's top environmental reporters. He came to the beat more than 20 years ago on staff at the Sarasota Herald-Tribune. Local readers will appreciate his insights into the city's unique history and society scene.

Back in 1960 when I turned sixteen a couple of friends and I headed out to explore Big Cypress. Part of our purpose was to experiment with cigarettes and bourbon. For me, at least, son of a hunting guide and nephew of the first biologist ever hired by the old Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, the appeal was even more (really!)the opportunity to explore and investigate the wild places and wildlife. I craved encounters with anything that ran, flew, or -- best of all -- slithered. But one of our number was intersted in the plants, in particular orchids. And they were profuse. The little Butterfly Orchids grew in such profusion that when they bloomed they perfumed the air downwind of the cypress domes they favored. Cigar Orchids and Ghost Orchids were also common, and even more captivating. I was smitten. I still am. We were all smitten. So we stole them. Stole them shamelessly and enthusiastically for parents, teachers, and girls. And on nearby Chevalier Loop (which the locals all called "Chevrolet") a retired Navy Chief had established his own orchid jungle, with boardwalks running out over the swamp waters. He was friendly and informative with us, but he hated "garden club ladies" with a bitter passion, expressed with the force and vocabulary honed in a former life at sea, on warships, in combat. The ladies arrived, according to him, in chauferred limosines and -- stole orchids. And so I learned, first hand and young, that orchids, as James II of England said of falconry, are "a great stirrer up of passions." "A Scent of Scandal" is a recounting of one more story of these most beautiful and erotic of flowers, and of the passionate, irrational, and often illegal actions they inspire.

Download to continue reading...

The Scent of Scandal: Greed, Betrayal, and the World's Most Beautiful Orchid (Florida History and Culture) Manatee Insanity: Inside the War over Florida's Most Famous Endangered Species (Florida History and Culture) Seasons of Real Florida (Florida History and Culture) The Orchid Whisperer: Expert Secrets for Growing Beautiful Orchids World War 2 History's 10 Most Incredible Women: World War II True Accounts Of Remarkable Women Heroes (WWII history, WW2, War books, world war 2 books, war history, World war 2 women) A Beautiful Wedding: A Beautiful Disaster Novella (Beautiful Disaster Series) What the Dog Knows: Scent, Science, and the Amazing Ways Dogs Perceive the World The Ultimate Guide To Skin Whitening: The Permanent, Most Effective Solution For Increasing Complexion And Having Beautiful Skin (Beautiful Skin, Improve ... Complexion, Become Fair, Skin Pigmentation) The Fortunes of Africa: A 5000-Year History of Wealth, Greed, and Endeavor Glitter & Greed: The Secret World of the Diamond Cartel The Complete Guide to Planning Your Estate in Florida: A Step-by-Step Plan to Protect Your Assets, Limit Your Taxes, and Ensure Your Wishes Are Fulfilled for Florida Residents Container Gardens for Florida (Florida Gardening) Florida Gardener's Handbook: All You Need to Know to Plan, Plant & Maintain a Florida Garden The Florida Lawn Handbook: Best Management Practices for Your Home Lawn in Florida Florida Divorce Handbook 5th ed. (Florida Divorce Handbook: A Comprehensive Source of Legal Information & Practical Advice) Fish Florida Saltwater: Better Than Luck The Foolproof Guide to Florida Saltwater Fishing Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail: A guide to exploring the Florida Keys by bike or on foot Masdevallias: Gems of the Orchid World Heaven Scent: "Aromatic Gifts to Make, Send and Keep" Perfume: The Art and Science of Scent

<u>Dmca</u>