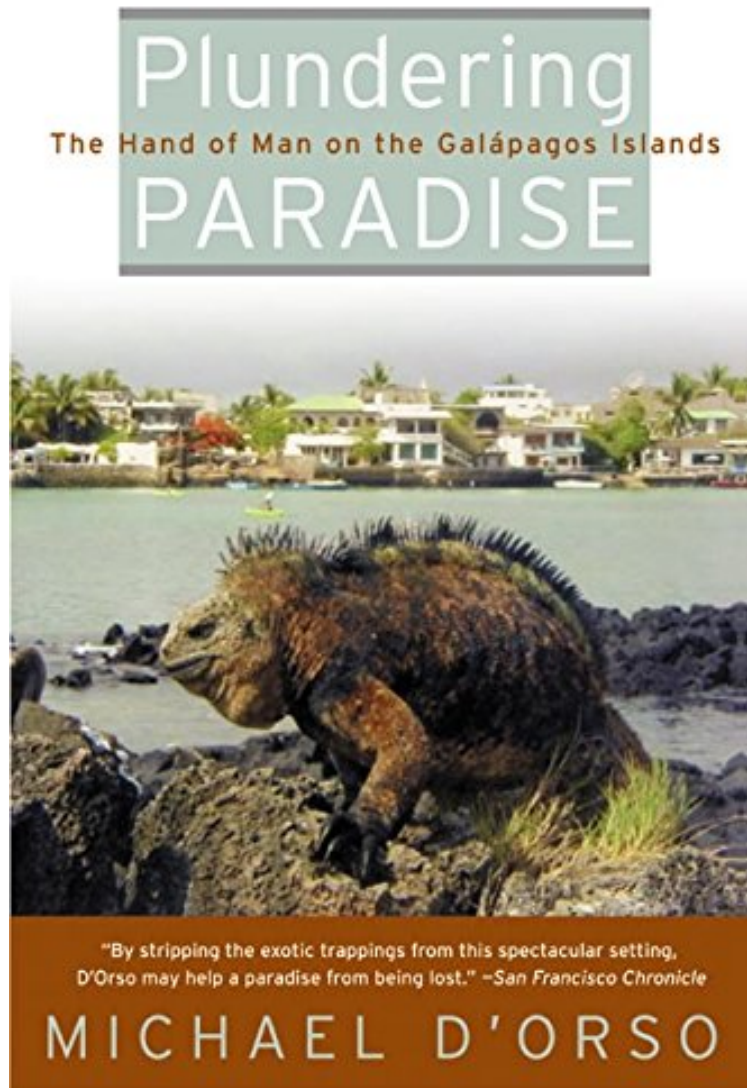


(Free and download) Plundering Paradise: The Hand of Man on the Galapagos Islands

## Plundering Paradise: The Hand of Man on the Galapagos Islands

Michael D'Orso

ebooks | Download PDF | \*ePub | DOC | audiobook



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#2053982 in Books 2003-10-21 2003-10-21 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.00 x .83 x 5.311, #File Name: 0060955767368 pages | File size: 46.Mb

**Michael D'Orso : Plundering Paradise: The Hand of Man on the Galapagos Islands** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Plundering Paradise: The Hand of Man on the Galapagos Islands:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. LOVED IT! By Dee Dee Jackson I am an expat living four years in Ecuador mainland (not the Galapagos) and I loved Michael's descriptions. He describes some of the Ecuadorian behavior "spot on" and throws in some tantalizing historical tidbits. His time in Ecuador was during a tumultuous period, multiple presidents, governments and dollarization and gave me a great insight into the feelings of that time...

thoroughly enjoyed it, and by the way, he is an excellent writer.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Excellent recent history and lifestyle guideBy CustomerDespite its somewhat negative title, I found the book to be a fantastic resource in to the recent history of the Galapagos and Ecuador. I read a number of books before traveling to Ecuador and this was the best.3 of 5 people found the following review helpful. There is a reason this book is out of print!By BillI bought this book hoping to learn about the Galapagos archipelago. Instead, what I learned, despite D'Orso's best attempt to prohibit the reader from understanding anything (as the time frame, location and characters are constantly changing with no apparent order) is that there are several women on the Galapagos with "strong shapely figures". This book conveniently sidesteps talking about the Galapagos and the effects of man on the islands, but rather is the compilation of some 20-30 character descriptions - all of which are the same. I couldn't have been more disappointed with this book.

Mention the Galpagos Islands to almost anyone, and the first things that spring to mind are iguanas, tortoises, volcanic beaches, and, of course, Charles Darwin. But there are people living there, too -- nearly 20,000 of them. A wild stew of nomads and grifters, dreamers and hermits, wealthy tour operators and desperately poor South American refugees, these inhabitants have brought crime, crowding, poaching, and pollution to the once-idyllic islands. In *Plundering Paradise*, Michael D'Orso explores the conflicts on land and at sea that now threaten to destroy this fabled "Eden of Evolution."

From Publishers WeeklyWhen Charles Darwin first set foot on the Galpagos Islands in 1831, he was captivated by an Eden untouched by man. But when D'Orso (Like Judgment Day) arrived on the scene in 1999, it was a different species all together that had brought him and that he found worthy of Darwin-like study-man. D'Orso explains that 3% of the Galpagos Islands are occupied by an exponentially growing population of people whose migration to the islands began in the early 20th century with a few eccentric Norwegian settlers. The islands have more than 20,000 inhabitants, a motley crew of nationalities ranging from German to Ecuadorean, who call the Galpagos both a refuge and a home. Predictably, these inhabitants bring inevitable dangers to the idyllic nature of the region-poaching, pollution, overfishing, crowding, ecotourism and the political warfare that will define the islands' future. With rich, witty prose as colorful as the characters he describes, D'Orso reveals the human side of the Galpagos, including the owner of the Galpagos Hotel, Jack Nelson, an American who has lived there since 1967; Christy Gallardo, an American who visited the island as a tourist and fell in love with and married an Ecuadorean man; and Mary Rodriguez, the wife of a Galpagan farmer who in 1992 opened the first and only "gentlemen's club" called Quatro y Media. This is a stellar study of the alchemy of man and nature. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. From BooklistThe isolated Galapagos Islands, home to a unique ecosystem, are, thanks to Charles Darwin, the epicenter of evolutionary biology, and numerous scientists have chronicled the lives of the islands' giant tortoises, iguanas, and diverse bird species in his wake, but journalist D'Orso, author of *Like Judgment Day* (1996), is no nature freak. Instead, he spent three years researching and exploring the islands to learn about their overlooked human inhabitants. Captivating in both his lucidity and precision, D'Orso seamlessly blends island history, political reportage, ecological analysis, and vivid portraits of islanders as he traces the radical changes that are turning this once pristine natural paradise into a besieged and endangered ecological battleground where poachers, scientists, and ecotourists come into sometimes violent conflict, invasive species threaten native plants and wildlife, and corrupt Ecuadorian officials siphon off millions of tourist dollars, condemning islanders to abject poverty. By telling the stories of those who have dwelled precariously, often lawlessly, on the inhospitable Galapagos, from whalers and buccaneers to refugees, mavericks, Ecuadorians fleeing the collapsed mainland economy, and valiant Park Service officers, D'Orso brings into focus the entire spectrum of Galapagos life, a very different world from that shown in romanticized documentaries or glossy tourist brochures. Donna Seaman Copyright American Library Association. All rights reservedAbout the AuthorMichael D'Orso is the author of the New York Times bestseller *Like Judgment Day: The Ruin and Redemption of a Town Called Rosewood* and has collaborated on many notable titles, including *Walking with the Wind*, with Senator John Lewis. He lives in Norfolk, Virginia.