

"The red ape is here described by one of the world's greatest experts, who writes with one eye on scientific discoveries and another on conservation. In a lively, beautifully illustrated account, Carel van Schaik relates how he found a unique tool-using population of orangutans. But he also explains how this population presently suffers from loggers, farmers, and poachers, like so many other populations across Indonesia. What a loss the disappearance of this precious primate would be!"

—Frans de Waal, author of *My Family Album* and *Good Natured*

"In this clearly written and lusciously illustrated book, Carel van Schaik takes the reader on a trek into the world of the most mysterious of the great apes—the orangutan. With passion for his science and compassion for his subjects, he shows how the forces of evolution have crafted a large-bodied, big-brained, slow-moving, fruit-chomping, technologically sophisticated, culturally varied, solitary creature. Unfortunately, the orangutan's future is in a perilous state thanks to one of its closest relatives—the big-brained, technologically sophisticated, culturally variable, omnivorous, and highly social human. Hopefully, van Schaik's book won't be the last word for the fascinating red ape."

—Marc Hauser, author of *Wild Minds*



"This book offers fascinating insights into ape behavior, including that of the human ape, based on a spectacular, once-in-a-lifetime discovery emerging from some murky coastal swamps in Sumatra: an unusually social, surprisingly intelligent, and prolifically tool-using group of orangutans who overturn much of the conventional primatological wisdom about their species. *Among Orangutans* is essential reading for anyone interested in apes and what it means to be human."

—Dale Peterson, author of *Eating Apes*

"Carel van Schaik has done ground-breaking work on the behavior of wild orangutans. His science has helped pave the way for urgent conservation work in the apes' rainforest homes. *Among Orangutans* is van Schaik's story, written with passion and eloquence, and beautifully illustrated with photos of the apes in their forest home."

—Craig Stanford, author of *Chimpanzee and Red Colobus*

"This book is a fascinating journey through the vanishing swamp forests of Indonesia, in pursuit of orangutans and the clues these apes hold about our own cultural origins. In this expertly told tale, exquisite details of orangutan lifestyles sparkle against the stark realities of habitat loss that now threaten the orangutan's survival. While leading this scientific odyssey into the human–nonhuman continuum, van Schaik also makes a compelling case for why we should care about the conservation of orangutans and what we will lose if they are lost to extinction."

—Karen Strier, a

