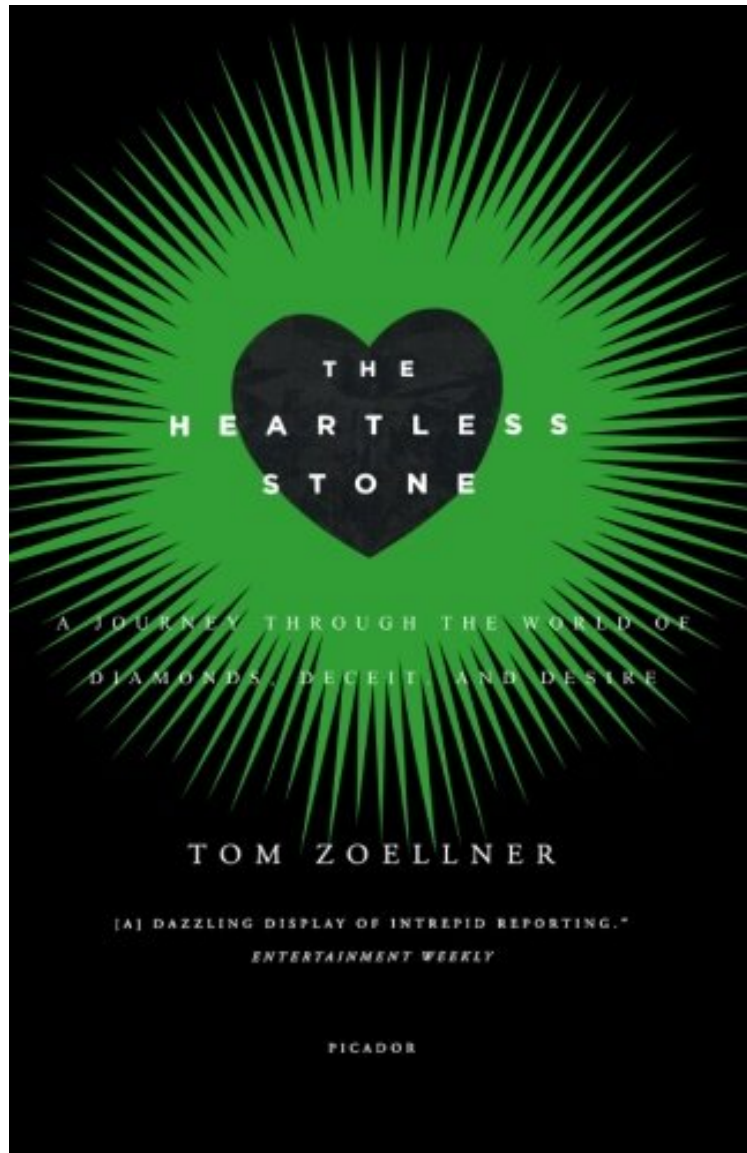


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The Heartless Stone: A Journey Through the World of Diamonds, Deceit, and Desire

Tom Zoellner

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#1269030 in Books Tom Zoellner 2007-06-12 2007-06-12 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.50 x .3 x 5.50l, .87 #File Name: 0312339704352 pages The Heartless Stone A Journey through the World of Diamonds Deceit and Desire | File size: 72.Mb

Tom Zoellner : The Heartless Stone: A Journey Through the World of Diamonds, Deceit, and Desire before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Heartless Stone: A Journey Through the World of Diamonds, Deceit, and Desire:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Heartbreaking but necessary information about the toll diamonds take

By GadgetChickSo, I liked Tom's brand-new book about uranium so much I decided to go read some things from his backlist, and *The Heartless Stone* - a book about diamonds and what the diamond trade has done to the world - was the first book I started with. All I can say about this book is that it is amazing. It's not often that a book can completely change the way you view an object you see everyday, like a diamond. I am not a fan of diamonds personally - and after reading this book I can safely say I never will own a diamond. Basically, those big, perfectly clear, perfectly white diamonds everyone loves come from more or less only one place: an impoverished, war-torn country in Africa where diamonds are sold to buy weapons to continue wars against unarmed civilians, or for a pittance of money totally unrelated to the final purchase price you pay in the jewelry store. The most striking moment in the book came, for me, when Tom writes that "the diamond on the finger of a bride dancing in a Minnesota country club might very well have been fished out of the eviscerated bowels of a miner in Angola." Although the diamond industry would like us to believe that the era of "conflict diamonds" is over, Tom explains that it is not, and there is no concrete way to ensure diamonds of a certain type (clear, large, flawless) have NOT come from a war-torn region of the world. There's also the issue of the racist, terroristic and monopolistic policies of the DeBeers corporation, which still controls a huge percentage of the world's supply of diamonds. If you still want a diamond after you read this book, there are some alternatives to buying a DeBeers-controlled, African-mined diamond, according to Tom: - Buy a "synthetic" or "lab-created" diamond. These have gotten better and better over the years and despite DeBeers' efforts to suppress the creation and marketing of lab diamonds, they are widely available. If you want an over-one-carat, colorless diamond free of inclusions, a synthetic diamond (Moissanite is one brand name) is your best bet. - Buy a colored diamond. Colored diamonds are being mined in Australia, Canada and a few other places, and are not the spoils of war or the product of slave labor, in most cases. Smaller yellow diamonds, "champagne" diamonds and "cognac" diamonds are almost certainly from Australia and are conflict free, although environmental damage is being done to mine them. - Buy from one of the online jewelers that DOES care about the origins of their stones and will certify to you that the diamonds are conflict-free. Brilliantearth.com is one of these jewelers. However, I say buck the system and don't get a diamond. The diamond doesn't make you engaged, your commitment to your partner makes you engaged. You don't "need" a diamond just because you're getting married. That big beautiful diamond represents love to some; to me, they now represent concentrated human suffering, and the wholesale rape of the environment. It's all in how you look at it. It would be great if more people read this book and understood the connection between their consumer choices for an object none of us needs, and how the degradation of human life and the environment gets perpetuated.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Stands out like well "a diamond in the rough"

By Mark Ruzomberka This book takes you through the entire life-cycle of a Diamond. We start from the geology and how they are created in the mantle of the earth and then pushed to the surface. Then we go to how they are extracted in the Diamond fields of Africa. A grim tale of the brutal military rule in the Central African Republic is also very interesting. Also later in the book we get an interesting chapter about the diamond fields of Canada. The Extreme conditions of both are astonishing. From there we go on a Journey to India to understand how diamonds are polished from rough stones into Gems. We also get a peek inside the De Beers Cartel showroom where many cut gems are purchased by the hundreds to thousands to jewelers. This book does a great job of explaining why there is such an inflated artificial markup on diamonds. At the same time you almost feel as if you are getting the back story to a Bond Movie, and are just waiting for a villain to show up. The economics explained in this book are very thought provoking. If you enjoyed the movie "Blood Diamond" this is an excellent follow up. I thoroughly enjoyed this book, and learned a lot along the way.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. SUPER

By VIVEK SHIVDASANIA VERY WELL WRITTEN AND ENJOYABLE TO READ BOOK. IT TAKES YOU ON A JOURNEY ALL AROUND THE FAR CORNERS OF THE WORLD FROM WHERE DIAMONDS ARE MINED ALL THE WAY TO THE WALMART STORE WHERE THEY ARE SOLD. MOST DIAMONDS ARE ABOUT 100 MILLION YEAR OLD SO WHAT ONE SECOND IS TO THE LIFESPAN OF A HUMAN BEING IS THE SAME AS COMPARING THE LIFESPAN OF A HUMAN TO THE AGE OF A DIAMOND.

An American Library Association Notable Book

When he proposed to his girlfriend, Tom Zoellner gave what is expected of every American man--a diamond engagement ring. But when the relationship broke apart, he was left with a used diamond that began to haunt him. His obsession carried him around the globe; from the "blood diamond" rings of Africa; to the sweltering polishing factories of India; to mines above the Arctic Circle; to illegal diggings in Brazil; to the London headquarters of De Beers, the secretive global colossus that has dominated the industry for more than a century and permanently carved the phrase "A diamond is forever" on the psyche. An adventure story in the tradition of Susan Orlean's *The Orchid Thief*, *The Heartless Stone* is a voyage into the cold heart of the world's most unyielding gem.