



National News Release

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“Deadly Game: The Horns of The Rhino,” A New Travel Thriller Explores How South African Poaching Affects Multiple Cultures

A “teachable moment” book for those curious about South Africa

Miami--As fewer Americans travel to South Africa because of level two travel advisories, and we become less familiar with the culture, a new fictional book by a chief scientist explores South Africa’s challenges with poaching and illustrates how meaningful the country is today along the path to safety for its wildlife.

"Deadly Game: The Horns of the Rhino," takes us around the globe to show us how poaching effects all who are involved, in the US, China and South Africa, but from a unique perspective. It is written by one of the chiefs of surgery at the University of Miami, Dr. Robert Marx, and will be available on November 21. He chronicles, through fiction, his experience with African wildlife and has developed complex, relevant characters who join the illegal game of poaching, as well as the heroes who seek to put a stop to the deadly practice. The experiences of a couple challenged by the dangers of South Africa, the racism, and the stories of the poachers, who often see no way out of these crimes, is explored. The book tells the story through the eyes of a surgeon deeply touched by his experiences in South Africa.

"Many people understand the effort to stop rhino and elephant poaching, but I don't think we understand completely how poachers come to the practice or what we need to do to stop it," says **author Dr. Robert Marx**. "I wrote Deadly Game for all of us, to celebrate the heroes who prevent the very violence we see in poaching and other violent crime in general."

Surgeons and physicians often see societal woes from a unique perspective, and this is exemplified in Deadly Game’s story. How the problem is broken down, culture to culture, is addressed in the book, from the demand for rhino horn as an aphrodisiac in Asia, to the desperate populations of South Africa who are drawn to poaching, to the lack of awareness of the culture of poaching around the globe. The book

also highlights beautiful areas and amenities in South Africa and how they fit in to the culture. Americans, from Miami, are featured as visitors, as lovers, and as researchers, including a chief surgeon, who finds himself entangled in a web of deceit by pharmaceutical executives.

"We should all know South Africa," says **Bill Youmans, former professional baseball catcher**. The country provides so much beauty, so much adventure and cultural lessons for all of us, as taught by Dr. Marx's new book."

The publisher offers *Deadly Game: The Horns of the Rhino* as the newest book in a trilogy that portrays the life of a chief surgeon and his co-workers and family, claiming that it continuously touches on "teachable moments" between our two cultures. Marx means to show us that only close guidance and attention of those who have been left out will heal the problem.

"If you want to hear a deep, genuine story, read Dr. Marx, says **Dr. David Frost, past president, The American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons**. "This is his best novel yet, because it defines a land he loves."

This October marks one year since the U.S. Department of State has issued a Level 2 [travel advisory](#) for South Africa, which recommends that visitors exercise increased caution. Specifically, the advisory warns about the prevalence of violent crime, especially in major cities after dark. [Travel advice](#) from the British government has also issued similar warnings.

[South Africa](#) is often portrayed by international media as a dangerous place to visit, with a high rate of violent crime, but thousands of visitors [travel to South Africa](#) every year without incident, describing the most beautiful scenery on Earth, with abounding oceans, clean beaches, [rugged mountains](#), and [game-filled reserves](#).

The New York Times and other publications have reported that researchers in South Africa are turning to genetic fingerprinting and sophisticated sensors to track down poachers for prosecution.

The book, now available to the public through Amazon and independent bookstores is available nationwide.

Author Dr. Robert Marx

Dr. Robert E. Marx, professor of surgery and chief of the Division of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, is well known as an educator, researcher, and innovative surgeon. He has pioneered new concepts and treatments for pathologies of the oral and maxillofacial area, as well as new techniques in

reconstructive surgery. As a researcher, he has made valuable contributions in the use of hyperbaric oxygen following radiation therapy, in the development of platelet rich plasma, and in elucidating the relationships between smoking and carcinogenesis. He also pioneered the clinical applications of recombinant human bone morphogenetic protein and stem cell use and was the first to identify what is now known worldwide as drug-induced osteonecrosis of the jaws. For over 35 years, he has overseen the training of scores of residents and fellows, many of whom have themselves established distinguished careers. His many prestigious awards, including the Harry S. Archer Award, the William J. Gies Award, the Paul Bert Award, and the Donald B. Osbon Award, attest to his dedication and commitment to the field of oral and maxillofacial surgery. He is the author of twelve scientific books and two best selling novels.

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