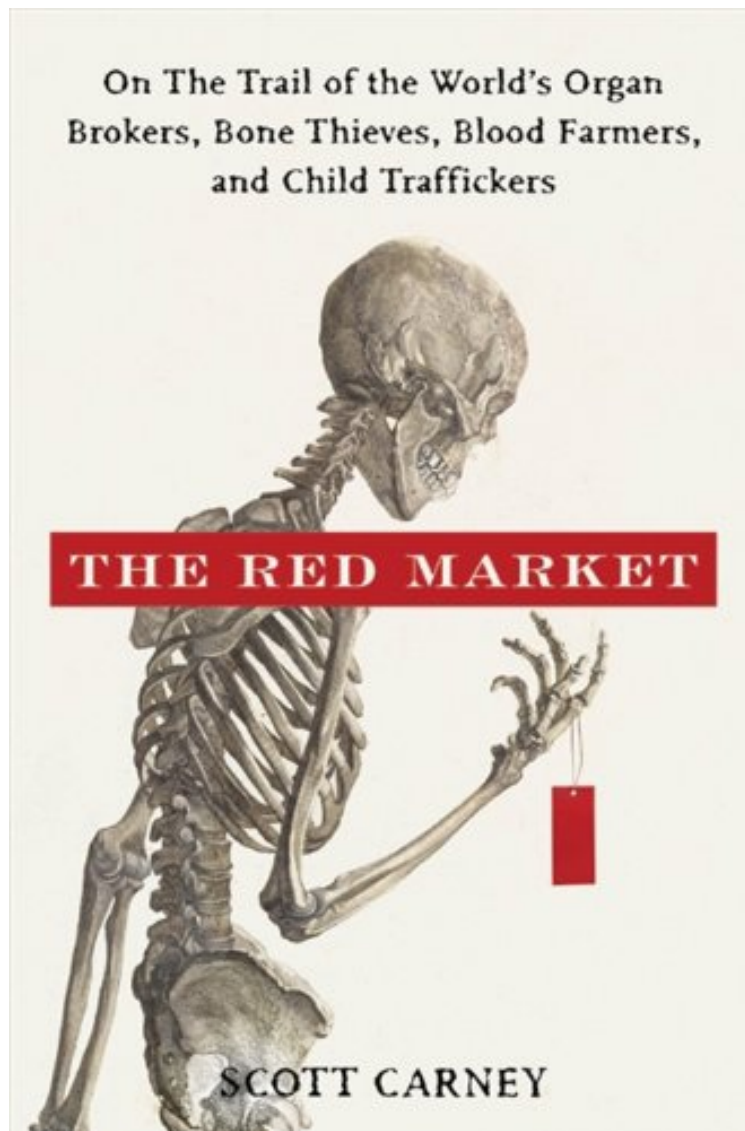


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The Red Market: On the Trail of the World's Organ Brokers, Bone Thieves, Blood Farmers, and Child Traffickers

Scott Carney

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Scott Carney : The Red Market: On the Trail of the World's Organ Brokers, Bone Thieves, Blood Farmers, and Child Traffickers before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Red Market: On the Trail of the World's Organ Brokers, Bone Thieves, Blood Farmers, and Child Traffickers:

30 of 31 people found the following review helpful. A Summer Must-Read.By cmpmI first heard about The Red

Market after reading an intriguing Publisher's Weekly interview [...] with author/journo/anthropologist Scott Carney. Based on an investigative journalism series for Mother Jones during 2009 and 2010, Carney delves into the black market trade of the human body - both living and deceased, whole and in part - following a set of circumstances that left him in the guardianship of the corpse of an American student overseas. This is where most reviews would say something like "not for the faint of heart" or something like that and it's true. Carney has taken a very frank (and graphic) look inside the human body trade but he does so without coming off as a sensationalist. Much of his work revolves around India and China - places where poverty and overpopulation have contributed to the profiteering and exploitation of international adoption, kidney/other organ donations and fertility methods (egg harvesting/surrogacy). I expected to be more shocked by accounts like those of an entire village of indigent women in India who saw kidney donation as their only way out of poverty (Note: it never is!) by agreeing to a small amount of money up front only to be swindled out of the additional money they were promised afterwards AND left without post-operative care. I was less shocked by these deceitful methods of procurement than I was by the attitude of the organ donation recipients: I don't care where it comes from or what it costs, just get it. Carney has compiled his work into a quick read that poses excellent moral and ethical questions - and I believe sheds some much-needed light on a grim traffic that few here in the U.S. know or think about. I look forward to more interviews with the author about this work in the coming months.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Thank you Scott Carney!

By BethAnnWe were required to read Scott Carney's book for my Medical Anthropology class...and I was not looking forward to it because the first book we were required to read was a dud. I picked it up and was mesmerized! I know it's cliché, but I could NOT put it down! I'm a forensic anthropology student, so of course the first chapter about the bone trade fascinated, and saddened me. It's a frank, and sometimes horrific romp through the business of life (egg "donation" - for profit, and surrogacy) and death. I truly had never thought about, or heard of these "live donations", and all the abject poverty...it was heartbreaking. This is a thought provoking, heartbreaking, human rights conversation making book; and I, for one, am so thankful for Scott Carney and his will and desire to write such a crucial piece of literature!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great investigation into various businesses based on the human body

By A. MenonThe Red Market is a fascinating investigation of various businesses based on the human body. It covers lots of different aspects of trading in the human body and explores both the market dynamics as well as the ethical issues surrounding the businesses. The author sheds light where most of us would rather not look and he shows how the various businesses so easily cross borders and race to the bottom of the socio-economic spectrum. The author discusses lots of different skin businesses including organ donors, adoption agencies, blood donors, medical testing, surrogate mothers and the commodity of hair. All the subjects discussed will be interesting to those who are keen to know how the businesses can work in the darker more sinister corners (or mainstream for some). The book's chapters are all interesting expositions. It was hard for me to put the book down as each form of trading of the human body has elements that shock the less exposed of us to what poverty and desperation can do. The author starts with an example in the introduction of blood donation and how some academics have shown that when it is seen as a civic duty the quality of the blood is much higher than when seen as a commodity and that the giving of blood is much higher than when the business is designed through the sellign of blood, as the selling "preys" upon the needy and reduces the feel of those who want to help to feel they are as needed. This example sets the stage of how market incentives can fail for a skin business. Such ideas are included in other literature, like Michael Sandel's Justice, but it sets a nice stage. The book continues to analyze through personal stories, many medical businesses based on the trading of the human body. The trading of organs is detailed and one sees that the supply side of the organs tends to come from the more desperate countries and within those countries the more desperate people. Also it is shown that the demand side of many organs is not necessarily associated with better medical outcomes and rather often stems from a desire of the medical industry for more business. It is also shown that through networks of middlemen the sources of organs is easily ignored as there is no association with the sources. Much of the book's chapters show similarities in how businesses are run for those surrounding the human body. For adoption, children are kidnapped, for surrogacy, the surrogates are predominantly poor and need the money, for egg donors, the chapter uses examples predominantly from Russia, for drug testing, the candidates are students, criminals and the destitute. None of the economics of the body businesses are surprising but the message of the book is that the free market should not be the guiding principal of much of the skin business. One should ask ethical questions about whether we are looking at these in the right way. Most western countries have strict rules on most of the businesses the author delves into, but in poorer emerging countries there is a race to the bottom in who participates and the book shows that the businesses are predatorial by nature. It is definitely an interesting read, I think the only thing a bit disingenuous is the author's need to focus on demonizing all the businesses (with the exception of hair) fairly equally. I definitely feel there are bad aspects of all the businesses but there are massive differences between the ethics of some of them. Donating eggs for money I would put in a different camp than kidnapping a child to export for adoption (obviously). More time should have been spent on ways to better protect the disenfranchised vs just saying that poverty and desperation makes people make potentially uninformed decisions and that is evil.

“An unforgettable nonfiction thriller, expertly reportedhellip;.A tremendously revealing and twisted ride, where life and death are now mere cold cash commodities.”—Michael Largo, author of *Final Exits*Award-winning investigative journalist and contributing *Wired* editor Scott Carney leads readers on a breathtaking journey through the macabre underworld of the global body bazaar, where organs, bones, and even live people are bought and sold on The Red Market. As gripping as *CSI* and as eye-opening as Mary Roach’s *Stiff*, Carney’s *The Red Market* sheds a blazing new light on the disturbing, billion-dollar business of trading in human body parts, bodies, and child trafficking, raising issues and exposing corruptions almost too bizarre and shocking to imagine.