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Título: Scent Of Scandal, The Greed, Betrayal, And The World's Most Beautiful Orchid

Autor: Pittman, Craig

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"FANTASTIC. If I did not know most of the main players I would have thought the author had a vivid and twisted imagination.." _Paul Martin Brown, author of Wild Orchids of Florida

"A fascinating true story of obsession, greed, and lust for the unobtainable. Reminds me a great deal of The Maltese Falcon. This rare flower is definitely the stuff that dreams are made of." _Ace Atkins, author of Devil's Garden and Infamous

"Pittman has captured the extreme competition, unique characters, and general insanity that often typify the orchid world. The Scent of Scandal exemplifies how passion and profit can overrule common sense and the law." _Scott Steward, former associate editor, North American Native Orchid Journal

After its Peruvian discovery in 2002, *Phragmipedium kovachii* became the rarest and most sought-after orchid in the world. Prices soared to \$10,000 on the black market. Then one showed up at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, where every year more than 100,000 people visit. They come for the lush landscape on Sarasota Bay and for Selby's vast orchid collection, one of the most magnificent in the world.

The collision between Selby's scientists and the smugglers of *Phrag. kovachii*, a rare lady's slipper orchid hailed as the most significant and beautiful new species discovered in a century, led to search warrants, a grand jury investigation, and criminal charges. It made headlines around the country, cost the gardens hundreds of thousands of dollars in donations, and led to tremendous internal turmoil.

Investigative journalist Craig Pittman unravels this tangled web to shine a spotlight on flaws in the international treaties governing trade in endangered wildlife_which may protect individual plants and animals in shipping but do little to halt the destruction of whole colonies in the wild.

The Scent of Scandal unspools like a riveting mystery novel, stranger than anything in Susan Orlean's *The Orchid Thief* or the film *Adaptation*. Pittman shows how some people can become

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so obsessed_with beauty, with profit, with fame_that they will ignore everything, even the law.