

Book Summary

This is Matt Friedman's "boots-on-the-ground" work to fight human trafficking throughout Asia. There are more slaves in the world today than any other time in history. Enter the world of human trafficking and explore what we can do together to end this global crime. *Where Were You?: A Profile of Modern Slavery* by Matthew Friedman provides an up-to-date overview of human trafficking, a largely ignored present-day evil, and recounts true stories of enslavement in Asia today. Former United Nations and USAID expert Matthew Friedman obtained in-depth first-hand knowledge with boots-on-the-ground work over 35 years throughout Asia. Human trafficking exists in nearly every nation on earth and Friedman has personally interviewed hundreds of freed slaves and imprisoned traffickers throughout South and Southeast Asia. The modern slave trade operates in brothels, fisheries, clothing and chocolate industries, as well as a myriad of other manufacturing jobs and is a billion dollar business that continues to grow unchecked. Even with the collective response of governments, the UN and civil society partners, less than 0.2 percent of the victims are assisted. "We're not winning the fight against human slavery. Relying solely on the anti-slavery community around the world to tackle the scourge of modern slavery and the criminals behind it simply is not working. Unless something drastic changes, this trend will continue unabated," writes Friedman. This book not only reveals the plight of human trafficking victims, Friedman also offers valuable advice and guidance related to his own personal experiences working in the counter-trafficking and development world. He offers valuable lessons for those thinking about entering this field."

My appeal Statement

Please celebrate a milestone with me: my new Penguin book, *WHERE WERE YOU?: A PROFILE OF MODERN SLAVERY*, has been published and is available worldwide. In this memoir, I explore the early days of meeting modern slavery survivors and recount true stories of enslavement in Asia. I recall painful moments that literally changed my life, reflect back on the different approaches to fighting human trafficking over the last 35 years and give an account of the early beginnings of the fight against modern slavery before the phrase "human trafficking" was adopted. As I reflect on the deeply personal lessons learned, my first and foremost goal for this book is to motivate more people to join me in helping to fight this global crime.

