PHILIP CIOFFARI's latest novel, DARK ROAD, DEAD END, is a suspense thriller set in the Florida Everglades about the illicit trade in exotic and endangered species.

Walter Morrison, working undercover for the U.S. Customs Service, has been in town less than three weeks but already he's seen evidence of wildlife smuggling: boatloads of exotic species of birds and mammals being ferried in the dead of night through the fast-running streams of the Everglades. And what he's witnessed is only a small part of a vast criminal enterprise that supplies these rare and endangered species nationwide to pet stores, private hunt clubs, wildlife safari parks and even to highly "reputable" municipal zoos. His chance to expose the operation is growing slimmer because someone in his own agency has set the clock ticking on what could be the last seventy-two hours of his life.

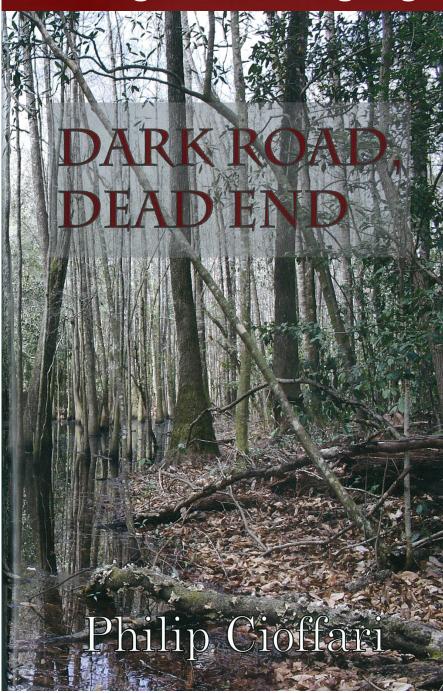


PHILIP CIOFFARI grew up in the Bronx and received his B.A. from St. John's University and his Ph.D. in English from New York University. He

teaches in the writing program at William Paterson University. His most recent novel is DARK ROAD, DEAD **END**. Previous works of fiction include: JESUSVILLE, A HISTORY OF THINGS LOST OR BROKEN, and CATHOLIC BOYS, all published by Livingston Press/University of West Alabama.

www.philipcioffari.com

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9th 6:30 p.m.

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