

Book description

A Book About Trash is a work of non-fiction by the Polish reporter Stanisław Łubieński, who specializes in ecology and ornithology.

It's about the presence of rubbish in our everyday lives, how human beings produce various forms of waste material, and what happens to it. By looking at the details of our everyday life – the plastic bag we use once, the Coca Cola bottle lying by the road, the idling car engine under the window – and tracing their origin, their destination and the harm they do, the author shows how our consumer society has developed out of our control, and that we're now facing environmental catastrophe. He also shows that this is a worldwide problem, affecting all human beings.

Combining to provide a wide ranging discussion of the central topic, the eight chapters each focus on a particular aspect, including: the environmental damage caused by hunting waterfowl; how trash gradually took over our lives; plastic pollution in our seas; what happens to the rubbish we throw away; how animals are affected by human waste; the wastefulness of the electrical goods industry; how rubbish appears as a metaphor in art; and how every single aspect of our ordinary life involves choices that affect the environment. It is punctuated with *short texts on particular but ordinary items*, such as cigarette butts or plastic bags, that the author has found at specific sites within Poland, and ends with a summary of the ecological effects of the COVID crisis. It is well researched, beautifully written and accessible to all audience.

More information about the book

Since publication in June 2020, *A Book About Trash* has been well received in Poland, wide coverage in the press, on TV and online media, including interviews with the author and many favourable reviews.

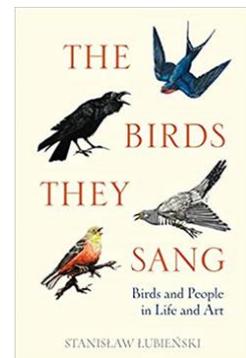
In Poland's leading daily, *Gazeta Wyborcza*, nature writer Urszula Zajązkowska wrote: "This is only outwardly a book about trash. In fact, it is a sad and bitter report on the current state of the world... We come to a truth that is inconvenient, dirty and stinky, and it's described from the first-person perspective, which gives these essays the tone of a personal diary of a topic people studiously shove aside..... Łubieński follows the threads of connection between the worldwide use of artificial materials right through to the greed of large corporations and of the

global economy.... The book is also an admission that we can have no influence on this state; the word 'helplessness' often occurs....”

In the weekly *Polityka*, Maciej Robert takes a more optimistic view: “There’s no hiding the fact that for most of us reading this book will be a lesson in preparing for the apocalypse, and a brutal stripping away of our illusions.... But if we then sink into ‘ecological neurosis’, it’s a sign that we’re on the right path to liberating the Earth from the tyranny of trash.”

USPs

- The book provides an excellent general introduction, covering the topic widely and lucidly, with examples drawn from various countries around the world and providing a range of interesting details.
- There’s a good balance of author’s personal experience and facts gleaned from a wide range of external sources, including not just printed material but direct contact with experts in the fields of science, art and social activity.
- The book definitely has a place on the English-language market, by reason of its comprehensive coverage of the topic, and most of all its personal approach, leading us directly from our own innocent wastefulness to the tragic consequences.
- The author presents examples from his own local experience, but thanks to thoughtful, balanced research, the information is not restricted or relevant only to one part of the world.
- It’s well researched, beautifully written and very readable.
- Readership 20+. General non-fiction audience, as well as readers interested in the books about society & nature.
- The author is a reporter specializing in ecology and ornithology. His previous book, *The Birds They Sang: Birds and People in Life and Art* was published in English in April 2020 by Westbourne Press (Saqi Books), translated from Polish by Bill Johnston.



About the author



Stanisław Łubieński was born in 1983, and this is his third book.

He is an esteemed ornithologist and writer. A regular contributor to newspapers and magazines, he is the co-author of a series of films about the life of migrants in Warsaw.

His previous book, *The Birds They Sang* about his experiences as an amateur ornithologist, was published in English translation in 2020 by Westbourne Press. In Poland it won the readers' vote for the Nike award 2017, which is the top Polish literary prize. The Thinking Country blog described it as "a future classic... a very readable, engaging book." In his review, Mark Avery wrote:

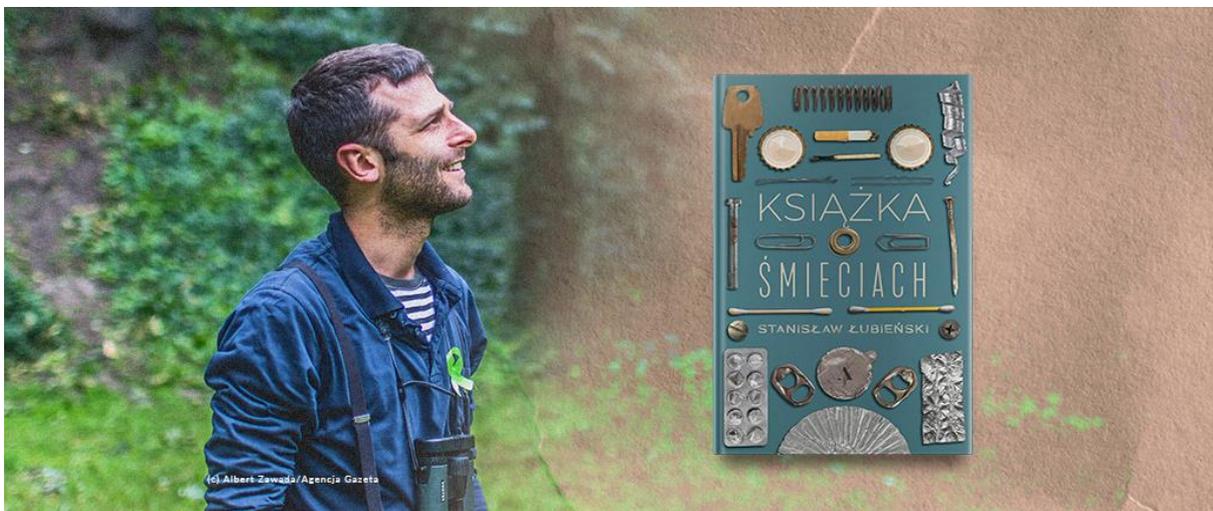
"Łubieński writes well, with clarity and tenderness. It's a book into which one can dip and one that can be read from start to finish." The same could be said of *A Book About Trash*.

Łubieński's first book was *Pirate of the Steppe*, about Nestor Makhno, the Ukrainian anarchist revolutionary who commanded his own independent army during the Russian Civil War, and established the world's only anarchist republic amid the steppes.

He speaks fluent English and is a very good performer with audiences and interviewers.

Author on Twitter: [@StanOchota](https://twitter.com/StanOchota)

Author on Facebook: [@DzikaOchota](https://www.facebook.com/DzikaOchota)



Additional information

- The ©Poland Translation Program (run and organized by The Polish Book Institute) offers translation and production grants for foreign publishers. For more information, follow the [link](#)
- Over 4,000 words English sample translation and the full book report, including a summary of all chapters, by Antonia Lloyd-Jones are available on request.



- Antonia Lloyd-Jones is an award-winning translator of Polish literature, ranging from literary fiction to non-fiction, children's literature, reportage and essays. She regularly mentors other translators, chairs literary events and has been a co-chair of the UK Translators Association. Her translation of Olga Tokarczuk's novel *Drive Your Plow Over the Bones of the Dead* was shortlisted for the Best Translated Book Award.
- The book has an introduction and 8 chapters, each preceded by a short report about the rubbish found in one or more locations (specified by map coordinates) on a particular date and at a given time.
- There are 19 colour photographs, almost all of items of trash, lying where they were found (though these illustrations are not essential to the text).
- There are 49,000 words in Polish (which in English would translate to roughly 55,000-60,000).