



WALTON FORD: PANCHA TANTRA /

From football hooligans to kitchen whipping boy, no matter which path Bill Buford takes me down, I will follow. But pair him up with the watercolor artist Walton Ford, and I've got a few hesitations. In Walton Ford: Pancha Tantra (Taschen) you'll see why. Though the title of the book is derived from a canonical collection of animal fables from India, Walton finds a way to move beyond the realm of childlike appeal into a world of dark humor. Though the tales of the Pancha Tantra and later, Aesop's Fables, were used to educate children with morals, I doubt teachers will be showing Walton's paintings to their students any time soon. For Ford, animals are not animals unless they have bite. From gorillas to parrots, elephants and more, Walton's paintings find a way to bridge his love/hate relationship for John Audubon while still making up scenarios as if Audubon woke up from a

night of drugs and booze with a dead hooker in his bed. Then again, Walton Ford, I love you.