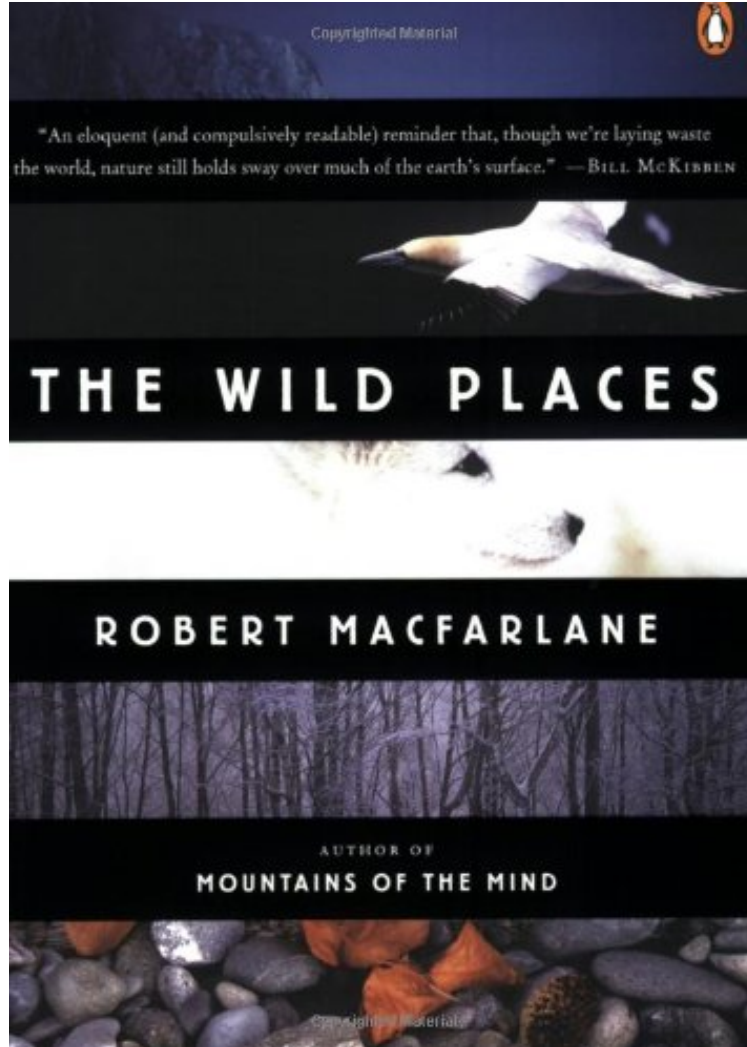


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The Wild Places

Robert Macfarlane

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#186643 in Books Robert Macfarlane 2008-06-24 2008-06-24 Original language: English PDF # 1 7.50 x .79 x 5.50l, .58 #File Name: 0143113933340 pages Wild Places | File size: 56.Mb

Robert Macfarlane : The Wild Places before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Wild Places:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Magically Wonderful Book By Brian Hunt The Wild Places is the second of Robert MacFarlane's books that I have read, the other being Old Ways, his most recent book. I enjoyed The Wild Places even more than Old Ways, which I thought was wonderful. In this book, MacFarlane visits a number of places in the British Isles, each of which is in some sense wild, in order to experience wildness and explore its nature. In each of them, the reader travels with MacFarlane, carried by his precise, poetic prose that gives us intimate access to his observations and feelings. Interspersed between MacFarlane's detailed and illuminating descriptions are accounts of local history and thoughts that the landscape, wildlife, and his experiences have promoted. Each region

that he visits is different: From island to tor, bookended by a favorite beech tree that stands near to his house. There is a quiet continuity to the book. The journeys are described in the sequence in which he made them, over the course of a year. As the year passes, our understanding of wildness evolves, along with MacFarlane's, from that of remote places separated from humanity to that of colonizing, evolving nature itself that can thrive in and around human spaces, in crevices, hedges, and ditches. MacFarlane's search for the meaning of wildness is interesting and thought-provoking but, for me, the wonder of the book lies in MacFarlane's ability to feel the landscape and, through the beauty of his writing, to communicate those feelings to his reader. This book will nourish, delight, and inspire anyone with a love of the natural world. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Nature Gets a Place Alongside Man By D. Lewis A challenging book for me, but worth the effort to read. Highly ethereal, even philosophical view of British wilderness settings that tends to focus on the people that used to inhabit the wild places that the author visits. Nature gets a place alongside man. Strange, to me, to focus as much on the human as the natural, but, in the end, it works well. I guess that even the wildest, most remote places in a country that has been inhabited for 10,000 years carry heavy traces of human occupation. How man has deeply shaped, and, in turn, how man has been shaped by the remotest places in Britain is a clear take away from this book. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. For Your Writer Toolkit By Jennifer Anyone who is writing needs to read Robert Macfarlane. If you cannot enroll in one of his Cambridge courses, you can at least read his books. I recommend taking a look (a highlighter) at Professor Mcfarlane's verbs. After that, pay attention to his use of metaphor. Brilliant writing and reading.

?An eloquent (and compulsively readable) reminder that, though we're laying waste the world, nature still holds sway over much of the earth's surface.? ?Bill McKibben Are there any genuinely wild places left in Britain and Ireland? That is the question that Robert Macfarlane poses to himself as he embarks on a series of breathtaking journeys through some of the archipelago's most remarkable landscapes. He climbs, walks, and swims by day and spends his nights sleeping on cliff-tops and in ancient meadows and wildwoods. With elegance and passion he entwines history, memory, and landscape in a bewitching evocation of wildness and its vital importance. A unique travelogue that will intrigue readers of natural history and adventure, *The Wild Places* solidifies Macfarlane's reputation as a young writer to watch.

From Publishers Weekly Starred . In this eloquent travelogue, Macfarlane (*Mountains of the Mind*) explores the last undomesticated landscapes in Britain and Ireland in a narration that blends history, memoir and meditation. Macfarlane journeys to salt marshes, mountaintops, forests, beaches, constantly expanding and refining his understanding of wildness. Walking a Lake District ridge at night, he observes that with the stars falling plainly far above, it seemed to me that our estrangement from the dark was a great and serious loss. Crossing a moor, he finds its vastness and resistance to straight lines of progress analogous to the inability of mere words to convey a landscape's variety and immensity. Nonetheless, Macfarlane's language is as surprising and precise as his environments, with such evocative phrases as heat jellifying the air, ice lidded the puddles and descriptions of birds that gild a tree and the sky as a steady tall blue. His striking prose not only evokes each locale's physicality in sensuous, deliberate detail, it glows with a reverence for nature in general and takes the reader on both a geographical and a philosophical journey, as mind-expanding as any of his wild places. (June) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. a "The Wild Places" boldly celebrates places that aren't supposed to exist, and does so in prose that is at times very nearly as vivid and beautiful as the thing itself. a Rebecca Solnit a Prose as precise as this is not just evocative. It is a manifesto in itself. Macfarlane's language urges us to gaze more closely at the wonders around us, to take notice, to remind ourselves how thrillingly alive a spell in the wild can make us seem. a "The Sunday Times" (UK) a A formidable consideration by a naturalist who can unfurl a sentence a poetry, really a with the breathless ease of a master angler, a writer whose ideas and reach transcend the physical region he explores] the natural world swells with meaning through Macfarlane's devoted observations, which can be both minutely detailed and vast in scope] like the wild it parses, [this book] quietly returns us to ourselves. a "The New York Times Book " a Inspiring] Macfarlane brings these landscapes to pulsing life] His precision in apprehending the world is a salutary lesson in and of itself] His descriptions have created a new map of Britain and Ireland in my mind. And like pebbles in a pond, those descriptions are now altering the way I look at the world immediately around me.. this is the final gift of Macfarlane's wild places: they illuminate the wild wonder of our everyday world. a "National Geographic Traveler" a "The Wild Places" boldly celebrates places that aren't supposed to exist, and does so in prose that is at times very nearly as vivid and beautiful as the thing itself. a Rebecca Solnit a Prose as precise as this is not just evocative. It is a manifesto in itself. Macfarlane's language urges us to gaze more closely at the wonders around us, to take notice, to remind ourselves how thrillingly alive a spell in the wild can make us seem. a "The Sunday Times" (UK) A formidable consideration by a naturalist who can unfurl a sentence poetry, really with the breathless ease of a master angler, a writer whose ideas and reach transcend the physical region he explores the natural world swells with meaning through Macfarlane's devoted observations, which can be both minutely detailed and vast in scope like the wild it parses, [this book] quietly returns us to ourselves. "The New York Times Book " Inspiring Macfarlane brings

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