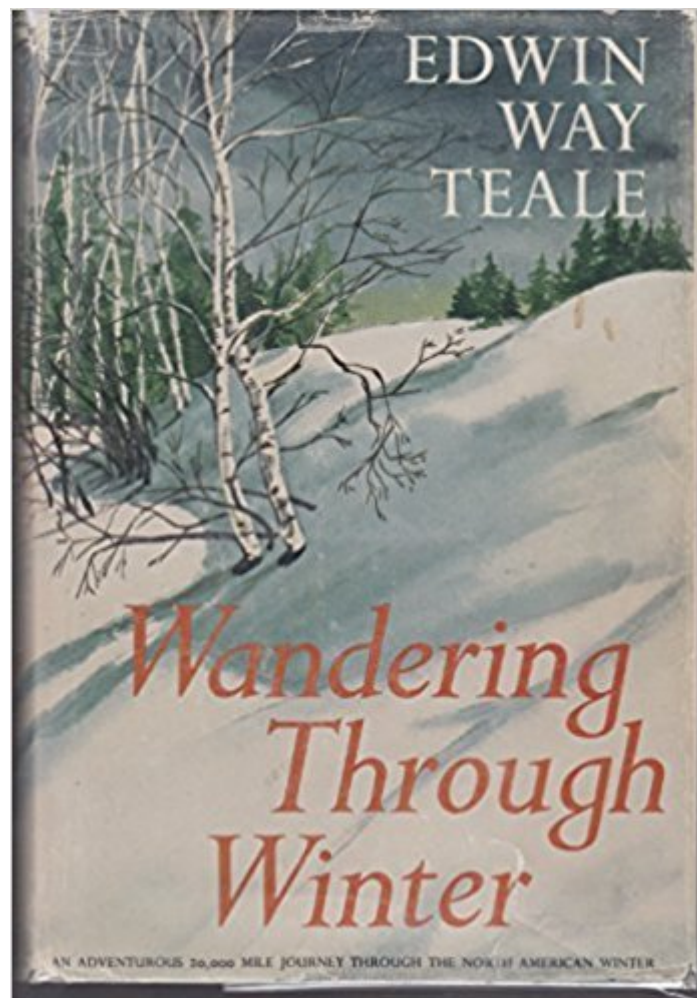




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Wandering Through Winter: A Naturalist's 20,000 Mile Journey Through The North American Winter



Synopsis

Nature book.

Book Information

Hardcover: 370 pages

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Customer Reviews

Nature book.

This book was recommended to me because I am familiar with the region about which it is written and because I am a fan of good writing. The area it describes is, indeed, a wonderful place, and he does it justice. Mr. Teale's writing is my favorite kind of writing: It is elegant and artful without showing off. It is a real pleasure to read this book. His words describe the subject beautifully and convey a real sense of the experience without calling attention to themselves.

Another in Teale's seasonal books; beautifully written, easy to read, richly detailed descriptions of nature. Makes me want to visit the places mentioned when he travelled in the 1950's to see if they are still there. A real snapshot of a bygone era.

Wonderful

Exceeded expectations in every way.

A wonderful book but was very musty smelling.

The naturalist Edwin Way Teale wrote four books about his and his wife's 100,000-mile journey that crisscrossed America and its seasons: "North With the Spring" (1951); "Autumn Across America" (1956); "Journey into Summer" (1960); and "Wandering Through Winter" (1965). In nearly 1400 pages this quartet of books takes the reader off the beaten paths and onto a grand tour of the natural history of this country. The only other books I know of that are remotely similar to these are John McPhee's geological grand tour of the 40th Parallel, "Annals of the Former World" (formerly published as a four-volume set). If Annie Dillard had abandoned Tinker's Creek and taken a pilgrimage across America, she might have written books comparable to Teale's opus magnus. The author and his wife, Nellie are the grandparents everyone should have, pottering about the country, writing reams of lucid prose about their adventures. Teale's warmth and breadth of interests sustain our attention through the migration of a pod of gray whales, the discovery of hibernating poorwills in the lower Colorado desert, giant beavers on the Missouri, or a night in the 'sugarbushes' of New Hampshire. The pace might seem a bit stately to some readers, but Nature is stately. This is a trait that ought to belong to naturalists. It is the antithesis of the TV generation's notoriously short attention span. Here then are the subjects in one chapter of the Teales' leisurely journey, "The Diamond Farm:" 'Plowing for diamonds'--'Two shining pebbles'--'A crop of precious stones'--'The volcanic matrix'--'Kimberlite rock'--'A quiet interlude'--'Diamond in the mud'--'The elegant searcher'--'Doodlebugs'--'A rare example of credulity'--'A turtle-carrying spaniel'--'Law of the White Queen'--'Sorghum molasses'--'Edge of the Ozarks'--'"Ridge runners"'--'Contracted names'--'The brown, historic river.' Teale's black-and-white photographs form a meticulous record of their journey through an American winter, including one of Nellie in her hat, long coat, and stout walking-shoes amid wind-formed gypsum dunes. It is easy to fall in love with these books, and the couple who lived each chapter.

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