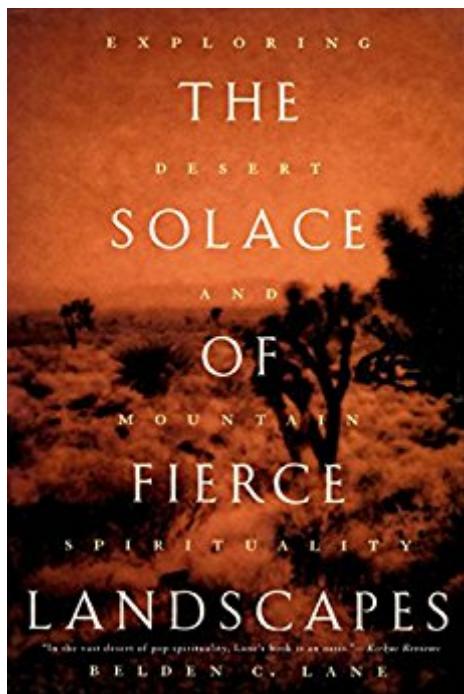


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The Solace Of Fierce Landscapes: Exploring Desert And Mountain Spirituality



Synopsis

In the tradition of Kathleen Norris, Terry Tempest Williams, and Thomas Merton, *The Solace of Fierce Landscapes* explores the impulse that has drawn seekers into the wilderness for centuries and offers eloquent testimony to the healing power of mountain silence and desert indifference. Interweaving a memoir of his mother's long struggle with Alzheimers and cancer, meditations on his own wilderness experience, and illuminating commentary on the Christian via negativa--a mystical tradition that seeks God in the silence beyond language--Lane rejects the easy affirmations of pop spirituality for the harsher but more profound truths that wilderness can teach us. There is an unaccountable solace that fierce landscapes offer to the soul. They heal, as well as mirror, the brokenness we find within. It is this apparent paradox that lies at the heart of this remarkable book: that inhuman landscapes should be the source of spiritual comfort. Lane shows that the very indifference of the wilderness can release us from the demands of the endlessly anxious ego, teach us to ignore the inessential in our own lives, and enable us to transcend the false self that is ever-obsessed with managing impressions. Drawing upon the wisdom of St. John of the Cross, Meister Eckhardt, Simone Weil, Edward Abbey, and many other Christian and non-Christian writers, Lane also demonstrates how those of us cut off from the wilderness might make some desert in our lives. Written with vivid intelligence, narrative ease, and a gracefulness that is itself a comfort, *The Solace of Fierce Landscapes* gives us not only a description but a performance of an ancient and increasingly relevant spiritual tradition.

Book Information

File Size: 4386 KB

Print Length: 294 pages

Publisher: Oxford University Press (January 25, 2007)

Publication Date: January 25, 2007

Sold by: Amazon Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B0058RTMWM

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Not Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #159,027 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #11
inÃ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Science > Nature & Ecology > Mountains #41
inÃ Books > Science & Math > Nature & Ecology > Mountains #142 inÃ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Alternative Medicine > Meditation

Customer Reviews

This is a rare treasure among the multitude of contemporary books on spirituality. I highly recommend this to anyone interested in a fresh view on cultivating a sense of the divine in everyday life. A friend of mine gave me this book, impressed as she was by the lovely and compelling title, and I have since read it through twice, and now refer to it often when I need an uplift for my soul (...often at night). I believe that this is a book for anyone seriously interested in finding real depth in their spiritual path. I am not the first to say this, but in a world of "user-friendly" and "feel good" religion and practices, this book reminds us of how difficult life can be, and of the power to be found in a dedicated heart. In the midst of his own personal trials, the author found deep wisdom, and solace, in his exploration of those who sought for God in remote places. He shares this with his readers in moving and profound ways, and I am grateful to the author that he has done so.

a great read; lane is thoughtful, sincere, and honest in his narrative of finding meaning.

This is a book to be savored in bits and pieces as there is so much to digest. We go back to passages again and again and always come away with new insights. He writes beautifully and sensitively. His life experiences are interwoven with his insights. Tremendously well read author who brings a vast knowledge and feeling to his writing.

Provocative writing.

Great book. Totally different viewpoint on how to encounter the Creator. The starkness of the desert and majesty of the mountains offer an immense silence. It is in that silence, and seeming indifference, that God can often be found. A very personal story is interwoven in the narrative to make it real and accessible. Strongly recommended.

Not an easy read but challenging, compelling and beautifully written. One of those books which stop

you in your tracks and cause you to think deeply.

Belden Lane hit a 600 foot homerun masterpiece in my opinion. His relationships and spiritual relationships with desert and mountain landscapes is all to meaningful for this introspective landscape photographer

The most excellent book on the dark night and the abyss the soul encounters before the emptying of the soul to be filled with God's Grace. It is only in self forgetting does one find his true self and then can live for the other

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