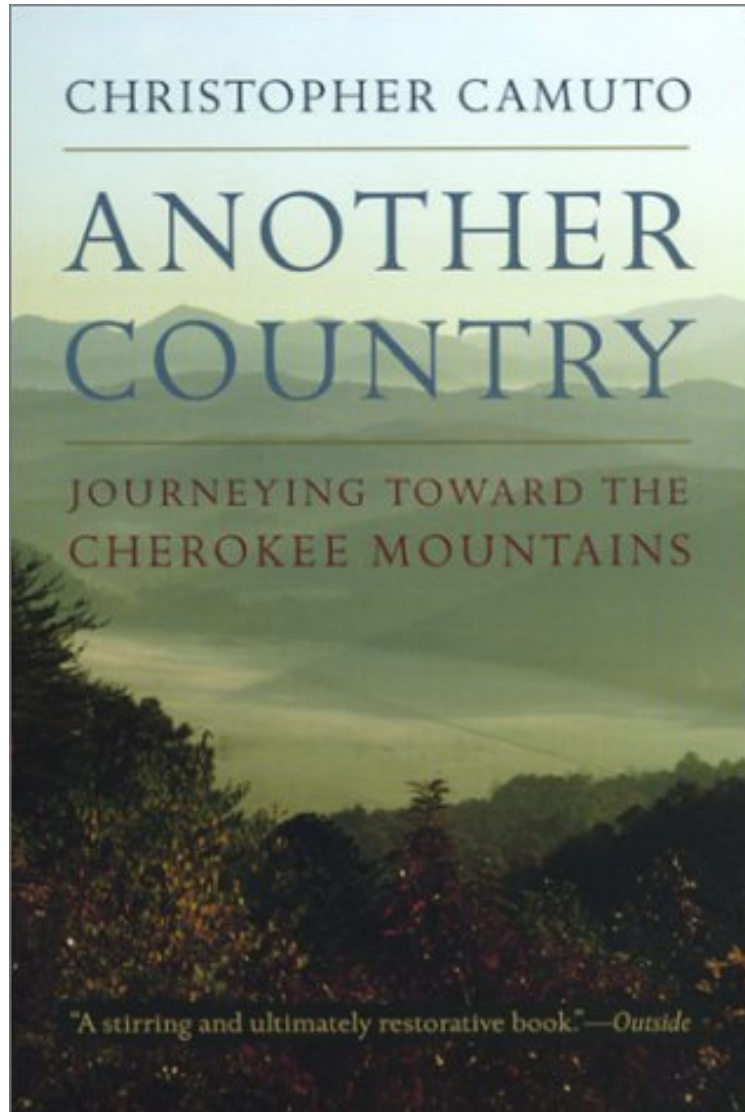


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Another Country: Journeying toward the Cherokee Mountains

Christopher Camuto

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Christopher Camuto : Another Country: Journeying toward the Cherokee Mountains before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Another Country: Journeying toward the Cherokee Mountains:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Beautifully WrittenBy CplkirkI'm reading it now and doing so as slowly as possible to make the experience last. Unlike so many pop "armchair" historians frequenting the media these days Camuto is clearly master of his subject here. A wealth of natural and historic information, rendered by a truly gifted author.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. It is not what I expected. If you want ...By Fuzzybutt

Sr. It is not what I expected. If you want to read this book, make certain you have both a dictionary and thesaurus within reach. The author spends too much effort trying to impress with his vocabulary in lieu of conveying what could have been an informative book. I am employed at a University (and have been for almost 37 years) and this book has definitely been less enjoyable and more trying than I care to repeat. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. This book is not meant ...By BusyMomto be rushed through while reading it. It is a book meant to be savored, thought-upon and reflected upon. This book is haunting in its thoughts and language as the author travels the backcountry of the Great Smoky Mountains. It is also a book on the re-introduction of the Red Wolf back into its natural habitat. It is also a book that explores the history of the Cherokees, who used to roam over the land and lived off the vast wealth of the forest, mountains and rivers before driven off in the unnatural (or perhaps natural) stem of progress. It is a reflective book meant to be savored over a period of time, as the language of the author is dense, lyrical and very thoughtful. It is a beautiful book. It is a sad book. It is a book meant to capture a time now lost to the mists of time. I picked this book up while visiting the Great Smoky Mountains last September. Out of the pile of books I bought then, this was the first one I picked up and I put it down after a month since it was too much to read in the midst of a crazy lifestyle. I picked it up again several months later to savor the words and thoughts of this author. Then I put it down again. This last few days, I picked it up since I have a craving to go back to the Mountains and teach my children what has happened in the past and what may happen in the future ~~ and I finished it in two days. Christopher Camuto is a wonderful naturalist writer and a keen observer. I have only been to the Great Smoky Mountains once and we did your basic touristy things simply because my boys were too young to even hike the regular trails. That doesn't mean that we're not going to eventually because we do want to in the future. We want our children to preserve their heritage, what is left of it. We want them to see the magical wonder of being so close to nature and see the natural beauty of this world. And reading this book helped confirm that "want." Camuto goes back and forth from talking about the Red Wolf program in the Great Smoky Mountains, the Cherokee visions and his own observations while hiking along forgotten trails. They all tie together in a beautiful book that is sure to be treasured. Need an introduction to Mother Nature and her history? I think you should start with this one. It's an unforgettable journey back through the mists of time. 7-30-06

The southern Appalachians encompass one of the most beautiful, biologically diverse, and historically important regions of North America. In the widely acclaimed *Another Country: Journeying toward the Cherokee Mountains*, Christopher Camuto describes the tragic collision of natural and cultural history embedded in the region. In the spirit of Thoreau's *Walking*, Camuto explores the Appalachian summit country of the Great Smoky Mountains, the historical home of the Cherokee, searching for access to the nature, history, and spirit of a magnificent, if diminished, landscape. As the author takes the reader through old-growth forests and ancient myths, he tells of the attempted restoration of *Canis rufus*, the controversial red wolf, to Great Smoky Mountains National Park. He details the impact of European occupation, and his meditations on the enduring relevance of Cherokee language, thought, and mythology evoke an appreciation of what were once sacred rivers, forests, and mountains. Through this attempt to catch glimpses of the Cherokee Mountains beyond the veil of the southern Appalachians, Camuto forges a new consciousness about the complex, conflicted past hidden there and leaves us with an important, thought-provoking book about a haunting American region.

From *Library Journal*: Camuto (*Fly Fisherman's Blue Ridge*, LJ 11/1/90) once again reveals his love for the wilderness of the southern Appalachians, known to many as the Cherokee Mountains. He relates his journeys on foot and by canoe into this biologically diverse country, centered along the summit-line border of North Carolina and Tennessee, in the tradition of such natural history writers as Thoreau and Luna B. Leopold. Inspired by ethnologist James Mooney's 19th-century classic studies of the Cherokees and encouraged by the 1992 restoration of the red wolf (a central figure in Cherokee mythology) to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Camuto writes richly about the relationship of pre-European Cherokee culture to the physical and spiritual beauty of the land and its flora and fauna; seldom are natural and cultural history so beautifully interwoven. His work will be a significant addition to any Native American, regional studies, or natural history collection. ? Pamela W. Bellows, Northwestern Connecticut Community Technical Coll. Lib., Winsted Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. From *Booklist*: Hiker, canoer, watcher, listener, and meditator, Camuto observes history and nature in the southern Appalachian Mountains, the former homeland of the expelled Cherokee Indians. Favoring a multilevel, nonchronological format, Camuto extols the magnificence of the land before European contact and laments its appearance today and records in detail the reintroduction to the region of the red wolf. With wilderness hemmed into the upper reaches of the Great Smokies, Camuto heads for the heights, where he camps in winter, reducing encounters with humans, and engages in a sensitive reflection on the land and the Cherokees' relationship with it. His inspiration is James Mooney, a government ethnologist from the 1880s who wrote about Cherokee culture, including place-names Camuto sought. As he arrives at these locales, Camuto recalls events, forestry, and wildlife that have retreated to refuges of place or memory. Earnest, wistful, and imbued with the poeticalness of nature, Camuto's work conveys the exhilaration of mountaintops, streams,

and predators--and the naturalist's dismay at roads, dams, and tourist traps. Gilbert Taylor From Kirkus sA respectfully cross-cultural, profoundly appreciative love letter to the southern Appalachians--the Cherokee Mountains--from Camuto (*A Fly Fisherman's Blue Ridge*, 1990). Camuto delves into the landscape to get a glimpse of the past and transcend a present in which "the possibilities of genuine enchantment continually recede." For him, that means deep immersion in the Cherokee way of seeing their homeland (though he's smart enough to realize he'll never truly be able to look with Cherokee eyes). He writes not just of his response to the evergreen woods, but of how he understands the Cherokee to have related to them; not only his take on sacred places, but how they figured in the Cherokee cosmology. Camuto is deeply smitten by this ancient, crumpled terrain. He walks long and hard along aboriginal paths in search of wild encounters; tenders intimate, vivid, timeless descriptions of his days afield; leavens the proceedings with historical narratives, natural histories, ethnologies. He limns the good--the Cherokee language and customs, the reintroduction of the red wolf, the improvisational jazz to be found in a veery's song; and the bad--the savagery and sadism of the European conquest, cultural dismemberment, environmental degradation, pauperization of the land's spirit, the loss of native plants and animals, native ideas and images. Camuto's prose can be tortured (describing a pileated woodpecker's "scalloped flight, a kind of iambic in the air") and flagging ("De Soto moved on unmoved"). But for the most part it strides quietly and in awe. He beholds a remnant of old growth ("a diorama a bear would have imagined"), reflects on how the red wolf deepens the woods, relishes the pleasures of a campfire. Camuto is humble enough, nimble enough, to sojourn successfully in these mythopoeic climes, conjuring a place portrait of swarming, satisfying complexity. -- Copyright 1997, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.