

Real Matter

David Robertson

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David Robertson : Real Matter before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Real Matter:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Excellent, thought provoking bookBy A CustomerThis book is a funny, gentle, and brainy exploration of nature writers and their subject. Though Robertson is clearly very knowledgeable, this book is not a guided tour. It is a search. Which is not to say the author has no particular point of view. Robertson IS preaching here a bit about the importance of nature, and all "real matter" in our lives, among other things. What makes this book so special is that with a twinkle in his eye he preaches from the pews as well as from the pulpit.

Book by Robertson, David

"I wanted to see if I could arrive in the heart of the wild by making a path out of words and photographs." The reader picks up the author's trail which meanders among words like secret, nature, wildness, cosmos, space, time, physics, capitalism, self-help, solitude, culture, land, hero, soundness, freedom, community, and walking with a poetic tendency for evoking ancestors and memories, nuance and resonance, accrued meanings and levels of significance. Robertson's book is a kind of exegesis. The first text was land - Yosemite, the Sierra Nevada, Mt. Tamalpais, etc. It inspired commentaries by Fitz Hugh Ludlow, Clarence King, Mary Austin, Gary Snyder, Jack Kerouac and others.

Robertson considers both the land and the responses, continuing and adding to a tradition of myth making and a religion of nature. His purpose is large and generous. He is sharing walks, drives, places, and books that are important in his life. Hikers, nature lovers, poetic souls, and people concerned with contemporary human and ecological dilemmas will want to engage with real matter - "rock, air, fire, wood, Hershey bars, and past events" - and become walking participants in the related and interwoven world envisioned as a prerequisite to knowledge of wildness. --
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