



Where the Bluebird Sings to the Lemonade Springs: Living and Writing in the West (Modern Library Classics)

By Wallace Stegner

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Nominated for a National Book Critics Circle award, *Where the Bluebird Sings to the Lemonade Springs* gathers together Wallace Stegner's most important and memorable writings on the American West: its landscapes, diverse history, and shifting identity; its beauty, fragility, and power. With subjects ranging from the writer's own "migrant childhood" to the need to protect what remains of the great western wilderness (which Stegner dubs "the geography of hope") to poignant profiles of western writers such as John Steinbeck and Norman Maclean, this collection is a riveting testament to the power of place. At the same time it communicates vividly the sensibility and range of this most gifted of American writers, historians, and environmentalists.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Stegner's love of unspoilt nature and of the American West shines forth in these 17 graceful essays. This book by the Pulitzer Prize and NBA winner is a National Book Critics Circle Award nominee for criticism. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From Kirkus Reviews

Western Americana and literary history by the Pulitzer-winning novelist. Now 80, Stegner here reviews his life in part, the West as writers have written about it, its landscape and the ever-changing effect of humanity upon it, and so on. Stegner believes that the West is finally coming into its own as a literary entity distinct from what eastern critics have found in it. Even so, he warns, "without a more developed and cohesive society than the West, in its short life and against all the handicaps of revolutionary change and dispersion, has been able to grow--and without a native audience for its native arts--there may come a time in a writer's career when the clutch of the imagination will no longer take hold on the materials that are most one's own." That sentence points up Stegner's strengths and flaws: It digs into his subject of change and fragility both in landscape and citizenry, but does so in a voice more academic than earthy. Ever in search of the loamy detail, one reads through this collection of recent magazine essays and introductions to Stegner's own and others' books and finds less appeal to the senses than the wise overview, rich in itself but not rich in words. The best essay by far is a sigh-heavy memoir of his mother, "Letter, Much Too Late," written some 50 years after her death, with her breath and heartbeat moved into the reader's own chest. Stegner's friendships with writers such as Walter Van Tilburg Clark and Wendell Berry ring with praise, as do his comments on John Steinbeck, Norman Maclean, and George Stewart. And one feels deeply rewarded by Stegner's wisdom about population shifts, the five or six main types of landscape, and his words about conservation, deadly dams, and the death of the desert. Absolutely worthwhile, but highly charged only here and there. --

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Review

"No one has written more or better about the West, past and present, than Wallace Stegner."—USA Today

Users Review

From reader reviews:

James Edwards:

The book Where the Bluebird Sings to the Lemonade Springs: Living and Writing in the West (Modern Library Classics) make you feel enjoy for your spare time. You should use to make your capable a lot more increase. Book can to become your best friend when you getting strain or having big problem along with your subject. If you can make studying a book Where the Bluebird Sings to the Lemonade Springs: Living and Writing in the West (Modern Library Classics) being your habit, you can get more advantages, like add your capable, increase your knowledge about several or all subjects. You could know everything if you like available and read a publication Where the Bluebird Sings to the Lemonade Springs: Living and Writing in the West (Modern Library Classics). Kinds of book are several. It means that, science guide or encyclopedia or others. So , how do you think about this book?

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Leonard Vega:

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