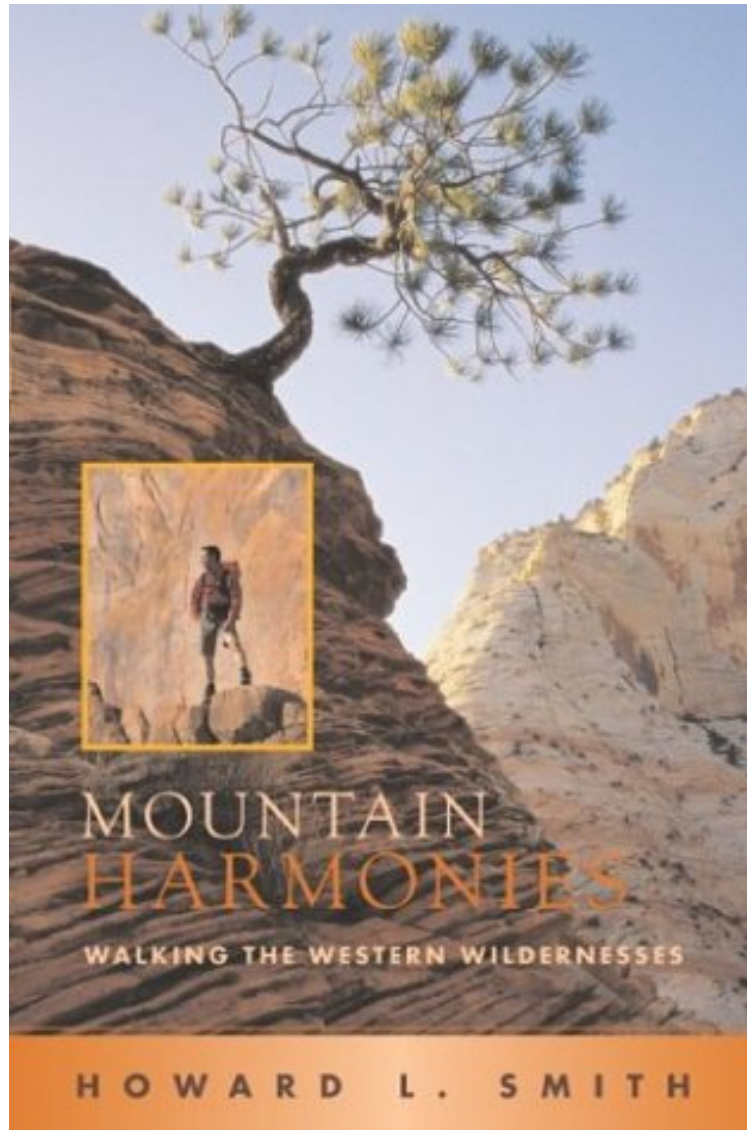


[Download pdf ebook] Mountain Harmonies: Walking the Western Wildernesses

Mountain Harmonies: Walking the Western Wildernesses

Howard L. Smith

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Howard L. Smith : Mountain Harmonies: Walking the Western Wildernesses before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Mountain Harmonies: Walking the Western Wildernesses:

3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Harmonies for all of us By Kenneth G. Baker What a delightful read. Although I am not a hiker, I enjoy being an armchair explorer and Smith's book brings nature close to hand. The unique and insightful perspectives on hiking makes one believe they are also experiencing his awe of the wilderness. Although many books have been written about nature, Smith is able to see and share the unique in what others would

describe as common. His encounters with wild animals are related to the reader in such a way as to impact on all your senses. His book also exposes the reader to the Native American culture in the Southwest, including new vocabulary and traditions. One of the most interesting aspects of Smith's book, for an armchair explorer, is the accessibility of his experiences rather than the exotic, available to the few. It feels as though I could experience everything he has by following in his footsteps. Throughout Smith's book, there is an underlying theme of camaraderie, showing nature can be shared with others and yet he is able find moments of solitude at the same time. If you wish to explore nature in the Southwest, there is no better guide than Smith. His writing style is very conversational and filled with images you can recreate very easily in your own mind. For those of us who are not ardent hikers, this is a great way to have a very memorable vicarious experience with nature. Do yourself a favor, take some time from your busy schedule and enjoy the outdoors through the eyes of a marvelous writer.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. My favorite new wilderness read

By Jennifer Blair

As a long-time hiker, I prefer my own wilderness adventures to someone else's. But Howard Smith's "Mountain Harmonies" is an exception as well as an exceptional read in a couple of important ways. First, with fine humor and prose, he shares some of his favorite Western hiking experiences--from New Mexico's Gila Wilderness and Colorado's remote Weminuche to the Olympic Range and "The Giant Strawberry" (Mt. Rainier) in Washington State. It's like being just another pal along on the hikes: sharing breathtaking views, bitter cold and dog-tiredness, heart-throbbing encounters with the great bears that so terrify and mesmerize us. Add an evening in a Native American sweat lodge, a caustic treatise about the ever-evolving technology of outdoor gear and you'll be even more deeply hooked. Then Smith drills down into these experiences and uncovers the too-often overlooked elemental and eternal joys of the outdoors, allowing us to see even our most basic strolls with new eyes. "Mountain Harmonies" is a wonderful read: one you'll want to share with your hiking friends. But let them get their own copies: "Mountain Harmonies" is a keeper.

2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Memories rekindled

By William L. James

Growing up I traveled frequently to the West and Southwest with my parents (a geologist and an anthropologist) on trips to complete field work. Mountain Harmonies captures the wonderful spirit of the West that I came to know on those many forays. The many fine stories in this book brought back fond memories of those trips with my parents. Of all the rales I really enjoyed the encounters with grizzly and black bears because for me they symbolize nature's purity. This is an engaging and enjoyable book.

Get out of town and out of your car; pay attention to the natural world around you. The experience can be unforgettable. That simple message is the theme of this love letter to the wild American West. Howard L. Smith's enthusiastic accounts of his trailside adventures will make you want to take the day off and enjoy your own harmony with the wilderness. Most of the experiences Smith shares took place in New Mexico and Colorado, with some in Wyoming, Montana, and the Pacific Northwest. Some happened deep within wilderness areas, but most unfolded near easily accessible trails and campsites. One need not be in good physical condition to follow in Smith's footsteps. Light walking or mobility through use of a wheelchair are the only requirements. Although Mountain Harmonies is not a guidebook, it suggests enticing possibilities for expeditions and road trips. Give it to friends to show them how easy it is to enjoy the outdoors. Use it to plan your next weekend trip. Read it afterward to recall the magic of the wilderness and the creatures that inhabit it.

"Smith's message provides guidance to those who desire an intimate relationship with nature. And, ultimately, his rhapsodic chronicle of bear encounters, rain-drenched camps, and rigorous mountain hikes simultaneously offers an entertaining glimpse of people's love for the wild and their frequent powerlessness in it." From the Inside Flap

Howard L. Smith's enthusiastic accounts of his trailside adventures will make you want to take the day off and enjoy your own harmony with the wilderness.

About the Author

Howard L. Smith is dean of the Robert O. Anderson School and Graduate School of Management at the University of New Mexico.