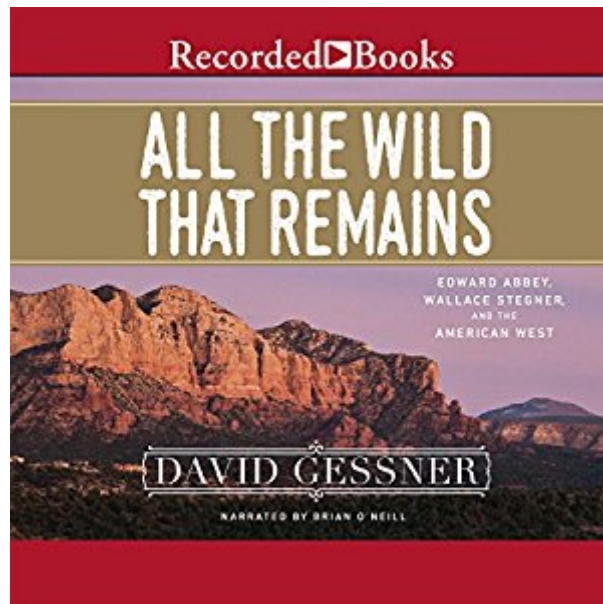


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All The Wild That Remains: Edward Abbey, Wallace Stegner, And The American West



Synopsis

A homage to the West and to two great writers who set the standard for all who celebrate and defend it. Archetypal wild man Edward Abbey and proper, dedicated Wallace Stegner left their footprints all over the western landscape. Now, the award-winning nature writer David Gessner follows the ghosts of these two remarkable writer-environmentalists - from Stegner's birthplace in Saskatchewan to the site of Abbey's pilgrimages to Arches - braiding their stories and asking how they speak to the lives of all those who care about the West. What is the future of a region beset by droughts and fires, by fracking and drilling? What should be done about an ever-increasing population that seems to be in the process of loving the West to death? How might two environmental thinkers with radically different personalities - a competent, mature advocate (Stegner) and a monkey-wrenching anarchist (Abbey) - have responded to the crisis? Gessner takes us on an inspiring, entertaining journey as he renews his own commitment to cultivating a meaningful relationship with the wild, confronting American consumption, and fighting environmental injustice

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 9 hours and 56 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Recorded Books

Audible.com Release Date: April 20, 2015

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B00WAFN1UO

Best Sellers Rank: #88 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Professionals & Academics > Environmentalists & Naturalists #100 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Nonfiction > Nature #169 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Biographies & Memoirs > Artists, Writers & Musicians

Customer Reviews

I am ashamed to say it, but I have never read any works of either Edward Abbey or Wallace Stegner. Surprising to say, considering that I am as passionate about the natural world and landscape as I am, but there it is. I have a book of essays by Stegner on the way from .com and my Wish List is currently full of works by both writers, so I will be remedying these lacks in my mental

and personal book shelf library very soon. One of the successes of this book would be then an ignition of passionate interest in these two men and their literature. I have read other works of David Gessner and I find his nature writing poignant and moving, which I think is what brought me to this particular book. "All The Wild That Remains" is excellent and very successful on three fronts; as a travelogue through the West of Stegner and Abbey where some things have definitely changed for the worse (i.e. the Glen Canyon Dam), and where some timeless things remain. Gessner writes poignantly about the increasing arid conditions of the West and the wildfires that continue to destroy the landscape due to man made causes and the horrible fracking practices and oil/gas industry rape of the land in Vernal, Utah (I live in Central Pennsylvania and fracking by the natural gas industry with the OK of our cracked brained state government is something I passionately fight against), but also is able to still find beauty in a hawk soaring down a canyon wall and in the brilliant, fire-colors of a canyon at sunset. It is on this second front, that of nature writing, where I found the writing most beautiful and inspiring. Gessner writes throughout of his admiration of Stegner and Abbey's writing abilities, but he is no slouch himself.

Book Review: "All the Wild that Remains" • by David Gessner, W. W, Norton & Co., 354p. Review by Mark J. Palmer Associate Director International Marine Mammal Project Earth Island Institute Berkeley, CA www.DolphinProject.org In his new book "All the Wild that Remains," David Gessner takes a trip through the American West, bringing with him the writings of two of best Western writers (although both them hated that label), Edward Abbey and Wallace Stegner. This is a meditation about the West, how it lives in our minds and how it feels today. Both writers celebrated the Western landscape and environment, but were horrified by the damage being done in their time by ruthless exploitation from ranching, mining, oil drilling and irrigated agriculture. The West is a place of hopes and dreams (in Wallace Stegner's phrase, "the geography of hope"), but so many dreams died on the Western boom and bust economies. Gessner mourns too, because he finds even more threats to the wild West than existed in Abbey's and Stegner's heyday: fracking, creating a boom in dubious new wells for oil and natural gas, and global warming. In many ways, this is a sad book. In addition to reviewing, and comparing and contrasting, Abbey's and Stegner's writings, Gessner visits many of the places they worked and wrote, and talks to many friends who still remember the two as friends and neighbors. Wallace Stegner was the more conservative of the two (despite a claim by author Terry Tempest Williams to Gessner that the opposite was true " Gessner never seems to come to grips with why she said that).

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