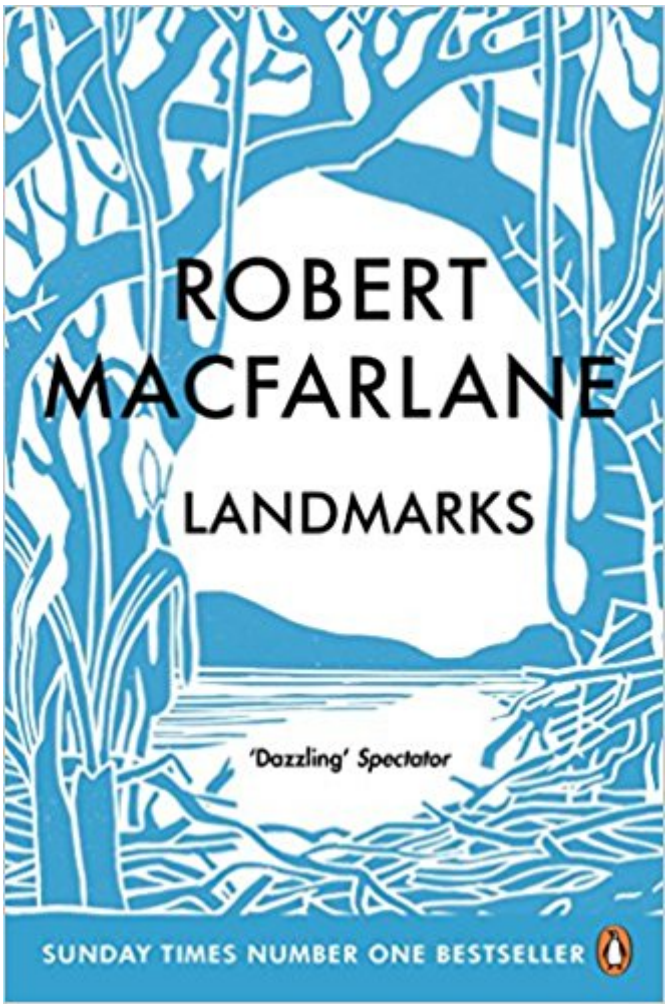
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Landmarks



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Synopsis

From Robert Macfarlane, the acclaimed author of The Old WaysÃ¢â ¬â •a celebration of the language of landscape and the power of words to shape our sense of place Ã Â For years now, the British writer Robert Macfarlane has been collecting place-words: terms for aspects of landscape, nature, and weather, drawn from dozens of languages and dialects of the British Isles. In this, his fifth book, Macfarlane brilliantly explores the linguistic and literary terrain of the British archipelago, from the Shetlands to Cornwall and from Cumbria to Suffolk, offering themed glossaries of hundreds of these rare, deeply local, poetical terms, organized by such geographical terrains as flatlands, uplands, waterlands, coastlands, woodlands, and underlands. Interspersed with this archive of place words are biographical essays in which Macfarlane writes of his favorite authors who have paid close attention to the natural world and who embody in their own work the huge richness of place languageÃ¢â ¬â •from Barry Lopez and John Muir to Nan Shepard, J. A. Baker, and Roger Deakin. Landmarks is a book about the power of language and how it can become a way to know and love landscape, from a writer acclaimed for his own precision of utterance and distinctive, lyrical voice.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Praise from America and England forÃ Â Landmarks"Landmarks is wildly ambitious, part outdoor adventure story, part literary criticism, part philosophical disquisition, part linquistic excavation project, part mash note. . . It’s an argument for sitting down with a book; it’s also an argument for

going outside and paying attention."Ã¢â ¬â œÃ Â The New York Times"[A] magnificent meditation on the words we have for describing the natural world. . . [Macfarlane] isÃ Â the great nature writer, and nature poet, of this generation.Ã¢â ¬Â•- Tom Shippey, The Wall Street JournalÃ¢â ¬Å“Simply one of the best nature history books I have read in years, Landmarks is a stunning paean to the beauty of language, the craft of writing and the power of nature. It is truly a book that will force you to rethink your relationship to the world around you.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â œ The Seattle TimesÃ¢â ¬Å“[A] fascinating, poetic compilation of vocabulary invented to describe the natural world. . .Lucent, lyrical prose evokes MacfarlaneÃ¢â ¬â„¢s aesthetic, ethical, and powerfully tactile response to natureÃ¢â ¬â„¢s enchantments.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â œ Kirkus Reviews Ã Â Ã¢â ¬Å“MacfarlaneÃ¢â ¬â„¢s beautifully written blend of nature writing and lexicon connects the work of his favorite writers to the British IslesÃ¢â ¬â„¢ natural settings and the distinctive, lyrical vocabulary used to describe them. . .[An] exceptional compilation.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â œ Publishers Weekly Ã Â Ã¢â ¬Å“This joyous meditation on land and language is a love letter to the British Isles.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã Â -Ã Â Observer Ã¢â ¬Å“Lyrical, charged with a monumental strength. Surely no one since the young Ted Hughes has written about British landscape and wildlife with such fierce enthusiasm. Few writers today have such power to make you look afresh at the familiar . . . making a British countryside come alive as the most exotic place on earth.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã Â -Ã Â Daily Express Ã¢â ¬Å“Astonishing and revelatory. Please read Landmarks, encounter its wonderful words, let them open your mind . . . start looking at the world in the dazzlingly receptive way they have taught you.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã Â - Adam Nicolson, Spectator Ã¢â ¬Å“As teeming and complex as an ecosystem, rawly moving, enormously pleasurable, historically important and imaginatively compelling, elegant and scholarly.Ã¢â ¬Â• - Melissa Harrison, Financial Times Ã¢â ¬Å“Passionate and magical...A deep scholarship of the countryside with an adventurous approach, all rendered in immaculate, delicious prose. Macfarlane offers an enriched nature. A kind of manual of how people in love with place and language are created by landscape.Ã¢â ¬Â• - Horatio Clare, Daily Telegraph Ã¢â ¬Å“So important, enriching. Ought to be read by policymakers, educators, armchair environmentalists and active conservationists the world over.Ã¢â ¬Â• - John Burnside, Guardian

Robert Macfarlane is the author of a prizewinning trilogy of books about landscape and the human heart: Mountains of the Mind, The Wild Places, and The Old Ways. He has contributed to HarperÃ¢â ¬â„¢s, Granta, the Observer (London), the Times Literary Supplement (London), and the London Review of Books. He is a fellow of Emmanuel College, Cambridge.

This is a magical book. It is both a collection of landscape words from the British Isles and a meditation on writing, mountains and landscapes. It is not a quick read but something that satiates after a few pages, requiring digestion, or rereading. The place words are from a vanishing time when we knew our land like we now know how to get about town. The words shimmer with beauty even though I suspect I am making a poor job of the Gaelic pronunciations.I thought I was a pretty good writer but reading this is humbling in a happy way, taking pleasure in his writing and glad that there are people who can write like this.If you love nature, if you love words, if you think there is more than one way to climb a mountain (p. 63), this is a book that will give you pleasure.

What a wonderful, uplifting book this is. Landmarks is a tribute to extraordinary people and cultures that have carefully observed and described the natural world using words and language of astonishing richness, clarity and detail. I highly recommend it.

It is an epic poem of field and stream. Many articles- cum- chapters on nature in the suburban british land. Hugely aware of sky and terrain. Very energetic prose and as charged with poetry as any transcendentalist. Fits no category. Beuatiful language a keeper in english language and among naturistsI liked it a lot.

If you are a Macfarlane lover, you will love this book, too. I found the glossary inserts in between chapters a little awkward--would have preferred all glossaries as an addendum at the end--but the book is a great source that will always remain on my shelf.

Such a joy to read a writer who can write so well. This is an unusual book, the first where I have found myself underlining words, phrases and passages so that I can return to them. A keeper!

Robert MacFarlane is surely famous for his writings on walking through the British Isles and the rest of the world. He lives close to nature and to the land and in this book he recounts the special, ancient words that have emerged to name and describe the many aspects of land.

A brilliant piece of writing and scholarship combined. His love of Nature and passion for the unique ways that language can be used to make us feel it is wonderful.

This can be called a book review book--books and authors that Mr. Macfarlane especially prizes.

His beautiful prose adds much to his critiques; as a result I have ordered a couple of his favorites myself. Really recommended.

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