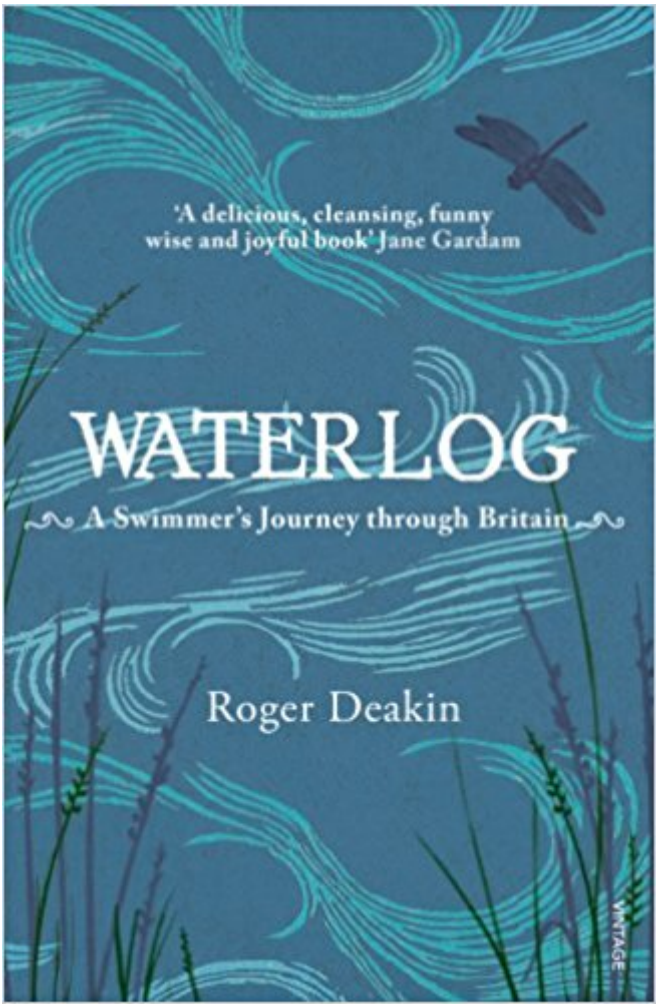
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Waterlog: A Swimmer's Journey Through Britain



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Synopsis

Waterlog

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Waterlog

Roger Deakin writes in such a personal, thoughtful style it made me feel as if I was right there next to him in the living room as he told the story. Every chapter had a new adventure, a little bit of History of swimming culture, interviews and inquiries with local swimmers. I highly recommend this for anyone who loves to be inspired by good adventure, and would love to immerse themselves in cold clear wild waters. It’s a great read.

Such a gorgeous book. Sad and stately and thoughtful and imaginative and a life clearly portrayed. I’ve lived in the UK, so as an American I had some familiarity with the place names (which I’ll admit helps) but I’m not a serious swimmer (which might have detracted) and overall I just tore through this, luxuriating in the prose. It was actually a page-turner. Thank you to Robert McFarland who turned me onto this book via Landmarks (which is also lovely). I wish there were more like this.

If you’re a water person, you will be in heaven. Lived vicariously through Roger’s adventures. He’s hardier than I am, but I love the water as much!

Wonderful book! Swimming across England with Roger Deakin is a delight. The nature notes, the background history; all beautifully written . This book is one you will want to read again and take with you on your trip to England.

A beautifully written book. Perceptive, poetic and perambulatory. Additionally Roger Deakin has the soul of Peter Pan. So refreshing!

I was told about this book by my sister who knows two immutable facts about me. One, I am a water dog. I love water. Being in it, on it, next to it, swimming in all types of water warm and cold, waterfallsÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â¦you name it.Two, I love to travel. When I am not travelling I am dreaming of where to go on my next trip. Heck, sometimes I dream of several trips after the next one I plan on taking.So on her advice I ordered Waterlog and soon realized that I needed to have an Atlas and Botany / Entomology field guide nearby while reading this.Mr. Deakin takes us not only on a swimmers journey about Great Britain, he takes us on a historical tour of his homeland. Water has played such an important part in the development of the towns along the way and his knowledge of this is related to us almost as a natural thought process of the swimmer getting into the groove of the long distance strokes.One thing I certainly appreciated is his sense of total awareness of his surroundings as he is living in the moment, something we all need to be reminded of from time to time. His knowledge of, or at least his desire to learn about the flora and fauna from whence he swims portrays his total immersion in the moment. Nothing seems too small to escape his notice. When I go about my morning swims in the Lake where I live, I am reminded to do the same.For someone who has no hesitation to swim in any body of water from small canals to the open sea, he is honest enough to admit to occasionally think about what ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“every swimmer fears from time to time.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•What is that fear? If you are an avid water dog, you know what that is. If you are not, then you really should find out.Frederick Pingswisconsinexplorer@yahoo.com3/21/14

Roger Deakin was a one off. A witty, learned, eccentric environmentalist and film-maker, he lived a solitary existence in his rackety Suffolk farmhouse, surrounded by a moat where he took daily swims. A great loss to literature, and the environment when he died recently aged 63.Deakin takes off through the seas, ponds, lakes, rivers and pools of Britain to embark on an aquatic adventure through the country. It is a frog’s eye view of the landscape, and the perspective offers a cleansing, healthy and subversive view on the surrounding area.Frequently Deakin is prevented from

swimming where he wants by jobsworths and signs from the dreaded 'environment agency'. But he braves opposition, as well as some extreme conditions to swim in a huge range of places, from the Cornish coast to the caves of Yorkshire, from the urban lidos of London to following Orwell's footsteps on the remote Scottish island of Jura.There are some wonderful scenes and descriptions in the book. My favourite was his visit to Polruan in Cornwall, where every year 10 year old schoolchildren swim across the harbour in front of cheering parents before gathering for a huge hot chocolate and cream buns party. A hugely nourishing educational experience, as Deakin records, and a refreshing change from most modern day swimming in schools where budget cuts and health and safety fears prevent children from swimming more than a few derisory lengths in sanitised conditions.Nature swimming is a subversive act as it necessitates veering off the regulated roads, cycle paths and official walkways that agencies would have us travel along. Deakin enjoys a quirky angle that freshens up the well worn genre of British travel writing. He combines the water log of his various swims with a wealth of local history, literature, anecdote and environmental advice. He was a meticulous and intelligent noticer of the natural world around him and his vision of Britain encourages the reader to take a fresh look at his or her life, get out of the house and seek out some quirky and refreshing swims of their own.

This book is a gem. The whole set-up seems ridiculous: To swim at various places around Britain. Is that a goal, is that even measurable? I read this book and was left with having to reconsider my view on setting goals. Not to mention that the writing is fabulous. Makes you want to go for a swim.

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