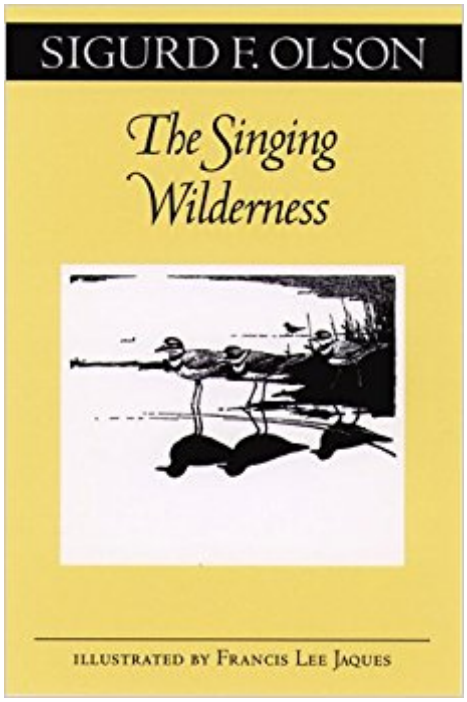
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# The Singing Wilderness (Fesler-Lampert Minnesota Heritage)




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## Synopsis

The Singing Wilderness is Sigurd Olson’s first and best-selling book, with over 70,000 copies sold in hardcover since its release in 1956. Now available in paperback for the first time, this volume established Olson as a major writer renowned for the beauty of his prose and the clarity of his vision."The singing wilderness has to do with the calling of the loons, northern lights, and the great silences of a land lying northwest of Lake Superior", Olson writes. "It is concerned with the simple joys, the timelessness and perspective found in a way of life that is close to the past. I have heard the singing in many places, but I seem to hear it best in the wilderness".Olson tells his story through descriptions of the simple events in nature that bring meaning to his life: picking berries, looking for pine knots, fly-fishing, hiking through the forest, paddling a canoe. "The movement of a canoe is like a reed in the wind", he writes. "Silence is part of it, and the sounds of lapping water, bird songs, and wind in the trees. It is part of the medium through which it floats, the sky, the water, the shores".

## Book Information

Paperback: 256 pages

Publisher: Univ Of Minnesota Press; Reprint edition (August 13, 1997)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0816629927

ISBN-13: 978-0816629923

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.8 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 32 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #80,609 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #82 inÃ Â Books > Science & Math > Nature & Ecology > Natural History #127 inÃ Â Books > Science & Math > Nature & Ecology > Nature Writing & Essays #917 inÃ Â Books > History > Americas > United States > State & Local

## Customer Reviews

to do with the calling of loons, with northern lights, and the great silences of land lying northwest of Lake Superior. It is concerned with the simple joys, the timelessness and perspective found in a way of life which is close to the past. I have heard the singing in many places, but I seem to hear it best in the wilderness lake country of the Quetico-Superior, where travel is still by pack and canoe over the ancient trails of the Indians and voyageurs." Thus the author sets the theme and tone of this enthralling book of discovery about one of the few great primitive areas in our country which have withstood the pressures of civilization.Acute natural perceptivity and a profound knowledge of the

relationships to be found in nature combine here in vivid evocations of the sights, the sounds, the vast stillnesses, and the events of the wilderness as the seasons succeed each other. But Mr. Olson is not content merely to "describe; he probes for meanings that will lead the reader to a different and more revealing way of looking at the out-of-doors and to a deeper sense of its eternal values. In each of the thirty-four chapters of The Singing Wilderness he has sought to capture an essential quality of our magnificent lake and forest heritage. He shows us what can be read from the rocks of the great Canadian Shield; he offers a delightful essay on the virtues of pine knots as fuel; he writes of the ways of a canoe, of flashing trout in the pools of the Isabella, of tamarack bogs, caribou moss, the flight of wild geese, timber wolves, and the birds of the ski trails. And much more, with something to satisfy every taste for wilderness experience.Superbly illustrated with 38 black-and-white drawings by Francis Lee Jaques, The Singing Wilderness is a book that no lover of nature will want to be without. To anyone who contemplates a vacation in the lake country of northern Minnesota and adjoining Canada, it is the perfect vade mecum.

As meaningful today as it was when Sigurd F. Olson wrote it, The Singing Wilderness is an essential antidote to the trials of modern life. This unique volume, beautifully illustrated by Francis Lee Jaques, will be a welcome addition to any nature lover’s bookshelf or backpack.

Mr. Olson pursued a passion and became one of the best in his field. His love for the wilderness was so great he wanted to share it with the world. Simply put, he makes me want to go outdoors! While you gain facts and history, it is the relationship between people,land and animals told almost romantically that endeared me to this book. You get lost and almost transported to the very sites he describes. What a gift he left behind.

Sig Olson talks the talk (wilderness) and walks the walk! His prose is crisp and lively, conveying to the reader who has ever camped in a pup tent or heard the haunting call of the deep allure of wild spaces for alert twenti-first century human beings. The start pen-and-ink drawings by Francis Lee Jaques complement Sig’s lucid narrative. As a high school student I fell in love with Rule 13 in Strunk and White’s 1913 "The Elements of Style": "Vigorous writing is concise. A sentence should contain no unnecessary words, a paragraph no unnecessary sentences, for the same reason that a drawing should have no unnecessary lines and a machine no unnecessary parts. This requires not that the writer make all his sentences short, or that he avoid all detail and treat his subjects only in outline, but that every word tell." Sig must have been entranced by the magic of ’vigorous writing’ as

well. He is "the great Bourgeois" (voyageur term).

If you've ever been out on a long outdoors adventure and have found that peace and serenity which comes with complete immersion and dissolve into nature, you'll dig this book. I'm only a few chapters in...and it's sore that he keeps trying to get back to this mindspace and doesn't always hear the song, but it really beautifully and clearly captures the feeling. The visceral feeling of 'home' felt after a week with a friend in the abundant solitude of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, dipping the paddle in and one stroke becomes a gateway into a profound present free of self-consciousness, and you feel like you're paddling through the stars.

classic stories that I am reading again and enjoying more than ever

Took this along on our recent trip to Quetico Provincial Park this September. Olson generally writes well and some of the chapters have become instant favorites of mine (ice skating on a lake beneath the northern lights). I am not familiar with any of his other writings, but this seemed to be a good place to start after reading other reviews. The book is organized around the four seasons and each chapter is generally only a few pages long--so it reads like verbal snapshots/memory traces of his experiences.

A friend for life recommended this to me before going to the north woods of Minnesota. Gives me a unsuspecting view of why I am going there. Having read this will definitely add to the experience and enjoyment of my time there. Thanks Doug.

A wonderful narrative from a remarkable man. He truly brings you into his world of the northern paddling wilderness. I met him many years ago and his enthusiasm for having You experience first hand the wonder he finds in the wild motivates me to this day.

The author of this book brings great nature to people's heart! We feel that wildernesses is the best friend of our human world.

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