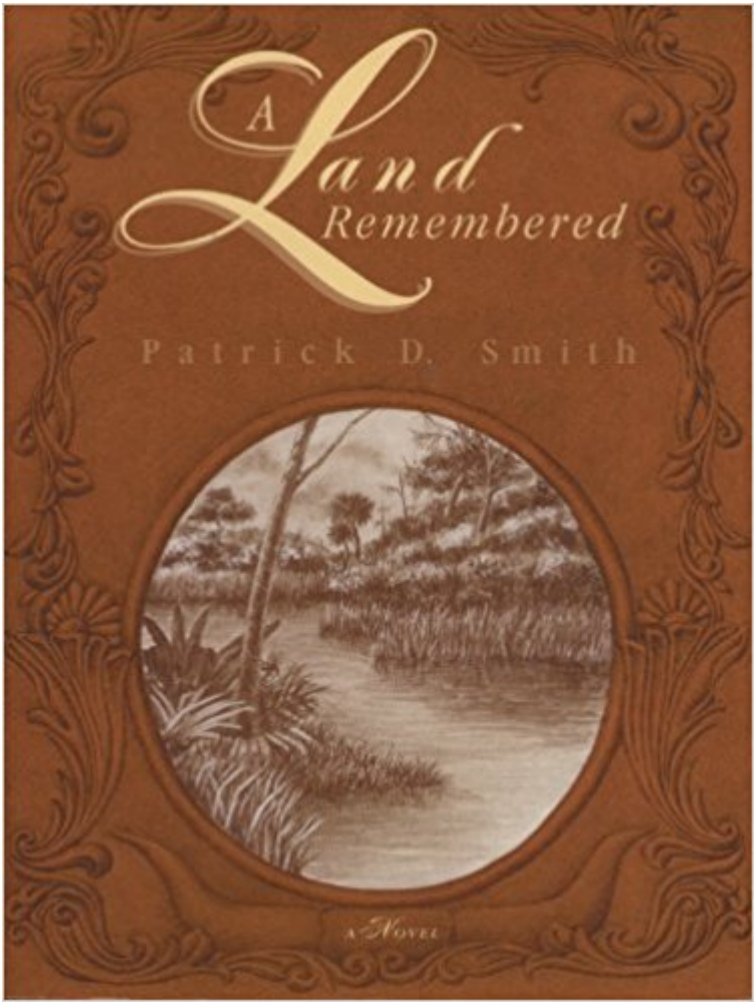
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A Land Remembered



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Synopsis

A Land Remembered has been ranked #1 Best Florida Book eight times in annual polls conducted by Florida Monthly Magazine and is winner of the Florida Historical Society's Tebeau Prize as the Most Outstanding Florida Historical Novel. In this bestselling novel, Patrick Smith tells the story of three generations of the MacIveys, a Florida family who battle the hardships of the frontier to rise from a dirt-poor Cracker life to the wealth and standing of real estate tycoons. The story opens in 1858, when Tobias MacIvey arrives in the Florida wilderness to start a new life with his wife and infant son, and ends two generations later in 1968 with Solomon MacIvey, who realizes that the land has been exploited far beyond human need. The sweeping story that emerges is a rich, rugged Florida history featuring a memorable cast of crusty, indomitable Crackers battling wild animals, rustlers, Confederate deserters, mosquitoes, starvation, hurricanes, and freezes to carve a kingdom out of the swamp. But their most formidable adversary turns out to be greed, including finally their own. Love and tenderness are here too: the hopes and passions of each new generation, friendships with the persecuted blacks and Indians, and respect for the land and its wildlife.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Author Patrick D. Smith earned the 2012 Florida Lifetime Achievement Award for Writing presented by the Florida Humanities Council. The judges felt that Ã¢â ¬Å“Patrick SmithÃ¢â ¬â„¢s books have been hugely significant to the citizens of Florida . . . [and] that A Land Remembered is an iconic Florida book that has resonated with generations of Floridians in helping people understand the

history of this remarkable state.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Florida Humanities Council)

A native of Mendenhall, Mississippi, Patrick D. Smith earned both a B.A. and a masterÃ¢â ¬â„¢s degree in English from the University of Mississippi. He moved to Florida in 1966 and began writing the novels about Florida that would make bring him lifelong recognition: The River Is Home, The Beginning, Forever Island, Angel City, Allapattah, and A Land Remembered. Smith was nominated three times for the Pulitzer Prize: in 1973 for Forever Island; in 1978 for Angel City, which was produced as a movie of the week for CBS TV; and in 1984 for A Land Remembered, which was an EditorsÃ¢â ¬â„¢ Choice selection of the New York Times Book Review. In the annual statewide Best of Florida poll conducted by Florida Monthly Magazine, A Land Remembered has been ranked #1 Best Florida Book eight times. In 1985 SmithÃ¢â ¬â„¢s lifetime work was nominated for the Nobel Prize for Literature. In 1999 he was inducted into the Florida Artists Hall of Fame, which is the highest cultural honor bestowed by the state of Florida. In May 2002 Smith was the recipient of the Florida Historical SocietyÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Fay Schweim Award as the Ã¢â ¬Å“Greatest Living Floridian.Ã¢â ¬Â• The one-time-only award was established to honor the one individual who has contributed the most to Florida in recent history. Additionally, Smith earned the 2012 Florida Lifetime Achievement Award for Writing presented by the Florida Humanities Council. The judges felt that Ã¢â ¬Å“Patrick SmithÃ¢â ¬â„¢s books have been hugely significant to the citizens of Florida . . . [and] that A Land Remembered is an iconic Florida book that has resonated with generations of Floridians in helping people understand the history of this remarkable state.Ã¢â ¬Â•

A LAND REMEMBERED is a book with deep emotional appeal, with colorful characters and a good dose of nostalgia for a simpler time. It tells of the hard-scrabble life of Tobias and Emma MacIvey and their progeny in the Florida wilderness of the mid 1800Ã*ƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s. The book provides a beautiful picture of a wild Florida before interstates and vacation rentals and amusement parks, but also tells a dramatic and personal drama centered around characters that will stick with you long after youÃ*ƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ve finished the tale. Skillet, Frog, and company weave an often-humorous tapestry through a period when self-reliance was the only option and the wilderness and the weather were obstacles not to be taken lightly. The book has a few glaring exaggerations, especially centered around the ferocity of wild animals, and the pacing is less than ideal at times, but the final product is a highly-enjoyable romp that every reader should enjoy. The first two-thirds of the novel are excellent, detailing the challenges of surviving in the unforgiving frontier of Central Florida, but the last third is such that each chapter jumps ahead some number of years and

basically describes the typically-brutal manner in which all of the characters meet their ends. That part of the book is much less fun to read and less interesting as well, but may have been necessary to explain how the MacIvey lineage reached its end. As a Florida native, the geographical references and descriptions of specific locations tickled my fancy and induced a sort of proud ownership of my state. Heartily recommended for those familiar with Florida, and hesitantly recommended for those without close ties.

Historical novel of the frontier in south Florida based on three generations of the MacIvey family ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ Tobias, Zeck, and Solomon. Starts just before the Civil War and continues up to the 1920ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s real estate boom with an epilog shortly after 1960. The MacIvey fortune starts out by collecting and branding wild ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“yellow-hammerÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• cattle and then driving them through deep wilderness to a port on the west coast in the Fort Meyers area. Tobias frugally collects a fortune in hard cash while incidentally connecting with the clan of Tiger, a wild Seminole desperately seeking refuge in the swamps south of Lake Okeechobee. The Seminole connection eventually provides herding dogs Nip and Tuck and a tough little mashtackie horse that Zeck learns to expertly manage. A couple of tough former confederate soldiers join the crew for trail drives. Zeck connects with both Seminole girl Tawana and a storekeeperÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s daughter Glenda to produce sons Toby and Sol. There is an expedition to roust and then hang rustling and bushwhacking desperados down towards the Ten Thousand Islands. Tobias sees that there is a future in orange groves as the range fills up and fences or development bock the old trail drive routes. Wives also wisely insure that land is purchased and titles secured. This kind of patient acquisition eventually serves as the base for a great real estate empire. This is especially so for fortuitous purchase of drainable swampland below the great lake which proves to be valuable produce land, and apparently useless mangrove swamp land with adjacent beach front that eventually becomes Miami Beach. A major theme here is the tragic loss for all three MacIveys of the women they love. Toby breaks with Sol when he understands that his half-brother has been instrumental in the destruction of his pristine homeland. Sol himself sadly discovers what he has done to that former wilderness paradise even as he recognizes that development would have come whether or not he personally took part in it. In fact, SolÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s outrage when an over eager caretaker obliterates his cherished family home echoes TobyÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ much greater loss. The homestead is somewhere on the upper Kissimmee drainage. Some of the landscape description is relevant ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ the custard-apple thickets, wiregrass prairies, buttonbush clumps along sloughs, the sea of saw grass in the everglades proper, gumbo-limbo and live oaks on

hammocks, and the expanse of pickerel weed around the edges of the lake. Wonder if the great wall of mosquitos emerging from the salt grass could be as lethal as portrayed? A lively action story full of well-wrought sentimentality along with a good deal of coincidence in a way novel master Dickens would have heartily approved.

This has become my new favorite read!! I loved the characters and the history. Florida as an area/state has been both very natural which often meant creatures like snakes, gators, mosquitos ruled. The land was a jungle- almost inhabitable because of the growth and the heat. Then there is the other Florida, which we have fallen in love with - the artificial, Disney, Miami, The Villages, and so many places like these. Both have value. This book takes us from FL in 1868-1968 through the eyes of one family you are pleased to be a part of.This is a MUST read for all Floridians and a great one for anyone. Also, while the culture and the main characters are male, the women in this saga are as strong and portrayed as perhaps wiser. You will love the women and the saga.

As a Floridian, I bought this to read for a book club assignment and to learn more about some of the original settlers--the crackers, Seminoles and first developers. I love the book even though it's not the fastest paced, but it flows nicely and is well-written. I would definitely recommend it to anyone who wants to learn about the early Caucasian settlers in Florida right after the Civil War. The monumental forces of nature that would drive any "normal" person away in a matter of days, plus the constant vigilance needed to keep rustlers and all manner of lawbreakers at bay shows just how visionary and strong the men and women were.

Having recently moved to Florida, I like to learn about the history of a new place that I'm living. Even though this is fiction, I think it was a fun and colorful way to get a grip on the general background of what Florida was like before roads, subdivisions and beach communities. When I see wild places even now, I have a hard time imagining how anyone could have survived here before air conditioning, breathable clothing and sunglasses. Also, after reading this book, I have a tremendous amount of respect for Seminole Indians.

My interest was captured from the first page of this novel, and I hated to stop reading until I had finished it. The author takes the reader through life in Florida's wilderness in the 1800's until the 1950's by following three generations of the McIvey family. Each generation's struggles, gains, and losses keep the reader amused, horrified, and absorbed.. This was an excellent true-to-life novel

and I highly recommend it.

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