



Dwellings: A Spiritual History of the Living World

By Linda Hogan

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Dwellings: A Spiritual History of the Living World By Linda Hogan

Award-winning Chickasaw poet and novelist Linda Hogan explores her lifelong love of the living world and all its inhabitants.

"We want to live as if there is no other place," Hogan tells us, "as if we will always be here. We want to live with devotion to the world of waters and the universe of life." In offering praise to sky, earth, water, and animals, she calls us to witness how each living thing is alive in a conscious world with its own integrity, grace, and dignity. In *Dwellings*, Hogan takes us on a spiritual quest borne out of the deep past and offers a more hopeful future as she seeks new visions and lights ancient fires.

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Dwellings: A Spiritual History of the Living World By Linda Hogan Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #221341 in Books
- Brand: Hogan, Linda
- Published on: 2007-07-17
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.30" h x .50" w x 5.50" l, .33 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 160 pages

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Novelist (*Mean Spirit*) and poet (*Seeing Through the Sun*) Hogan branches into nonfiction with this slender volume of meditations on the natural world. She successfully couples a poet's appreciation of phrasing and rhythm with Native American sensibilities and stories. Throughout, Hogan exquisitely examines both natural and internal landscapes. She writes beautifully about animals without anthropomorphizing them and, in so doing, explores what it means to be human. Herself a Chickasaw, Hogan is able to bring a diverse cultural perspective to her analysis of how people relate to nature. She concludes, "We must wonder what of value can ever be spoken from lives that are lived outside of life, without a love or respect for the land and other lives." Although 11 of the 16 essays have been previously published, they come together to form an invigorating whole. Author tour.

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From Library Journal

Dwellings is Chickasaw Indian poet and novelist Hogan's (*The Book of Medicines*, LJ 7/93) first book of nonfiction. In this collection of short essays, many previously published in literary journals, she describes various aspects of nature and problems she perceives in current attitudes toward it. Hogan's lyrical writing style draws us into her experiences in Central America, her Chickasaw homeland, and her current home in Colorado, showing us portraits of the natural world in each spot. Her strong orientation toward the environment shines through in each section, as she encourages her readers to see themselves as a small part of the whole that is our ecosystem. The pieces come together to reflect the author's profound respect for the earth and prompt us to feel the same. For literary and ecology collections. ?Gwen Gregory, New Mexico State Univ. Lib., Las Cruces

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From [Booklist](#)

Poet and novelist Hogan brings her feeling for language and story to these quietly beautiful and provocative musings on the nature of nature. A Chickasaw, Hogan is deeply involved with trying to relearn the "tribal knowings of thousands of years," revelations about the mysteries of life we've devalued, then forgotten. Hogan does succeed in tapping into some forgotten wisdom in her essays, which, though concise, cover and transcend a great deal of territory. Some relate personal experiences, such as participating in a sweat lodge ceremony or observing snakes, eagles, bats, wolves, flamingos, fish, and termites; and other essays focus on the implications of scientific endeavors, such as teaching chimpanzees sign language or the curious coupling of technology and hope inherent in the *Voyager's* Interstellar Record, that sound and photo album from Earth for the universe. Hogan writes again and again of the "circular infinity" of life and death, of how air, earth, and water commingle and transform each other, how flowers bloom even in a place as blasted as Hiroshima. The earth has a much stronger will than we do, Hogan tells us, a truth we should acknowledge and respect.

Donna Seaman

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Edward Peterson:

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