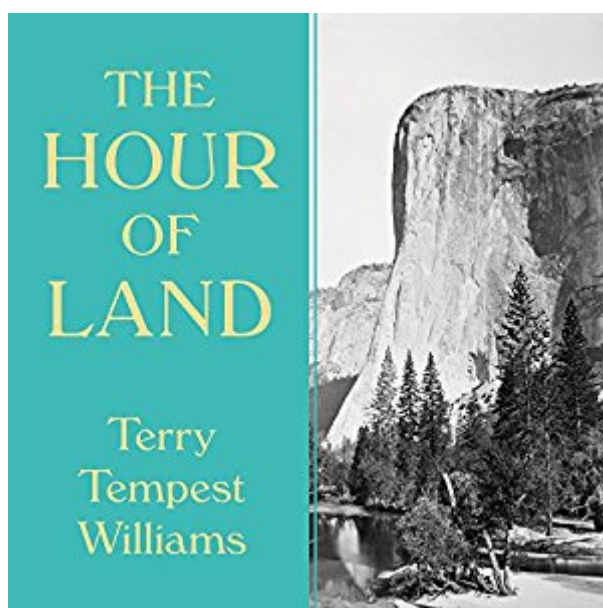


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# The Hour Of Land: A Personal Topography Of America's National Parks



## Synopsis

For years, America's national parks have provided public breathing spaces in a world in which such spaces are steadily disappearing, which is why close to 300 million people visit the parks each year. Now, to honor the centennial of the National Park Service, Terry Tempest Williams, the author of the beloved memoir *When Women Were Birds*, returns with *The Hour of Land*, a literary celebration of our national parks, what they mean to us, and what we mean to them. Through 12 carefully chosen parks, from Yellowstone in Wyoming to Acadia in Maine to Big Bend in Texas, Tempest Williams creates a series of lyrical portraits that illuminate the unique grandeur of each place while delving into what it means to shape a landscape with its own evolutionary history into something of our own making. Part memoir, part natural history, and part social critique, *The Hour of Land* is a meditation and manifesto on why wild lands matter to the soul of America. Our national parks stand at the intersection of humanity and wildness, and there's no one better than Tempest Williams to guide us there.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

More of a memoir than a travel guide, *The Hour of Land*, I'm willing to bet, is unlike any of the many books that are currently being published to coincide with National Parks Centennial. Terry Tempest Williams has written about 12 National Parks and Monuments in layers: surface descriptions through the eyes of someone who has spent much of her life watching, wandering, and wondering; and then all that is beneath the surface including the political

maneuvering and legislation that created them; the dark energy that threatens them. But also their magic and mystery and their role as a source of imagination and possibility. We realize that the deeper we look into these places— which may be as close as what we, in America, have to call “Sacred Lands”—the better we know ourselves. The post-modern black and white photos (Sebastio Salgado, Sally Mann, Robert Adams, Emmet Gowin among them) tell their own story and their selection and positioning within the book become clues to a magic riddle for which each reader is sure to find his or her own unique solution. This thrilling book, may be her best yet.

Terry Tempest Williams is an environmentalist, author, and poet who tours a number of National Parks and shares her deep spiritual experiences there, her love of nature, her outrage at the destruction of our treasures, and even the history we need to understand. Her writing often is poetic and stirring. Occasionally this format loses the reader, but is never dull. One comes away with a deeper appreciation of these American treasures.

William’s reminisces of her adventures in a number of parks/monuments as well as her own and other’s poetic descriptions and expressions of awe make for pleasurable reading. These musings are accompanied with the history of parks, especially the controversies surrounding their establishment. Her advocacy for the preservation of wild and historic places is evident and includes the current day controversy surrounding, for example, Bears Ears.

A history and tour of some of America’s national parks combined with the author’s personal experiences. The ever increasing threats to our public lands are also discussed. Terry Tempest Williams never fails to enlighten my mind and touch my heart.

Beautifully written for a book that includes much history and political detail involving our wild spaces that are being threatened with extinction and are not so wild anymore.

tremendous. a meditative walk though our magnificent parklands combined with a great history. i thank you Terry Tempest Williams.

very well written from an emotional point of view

Excellent writing...a true delight to read and comprehend...TTW is the best

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