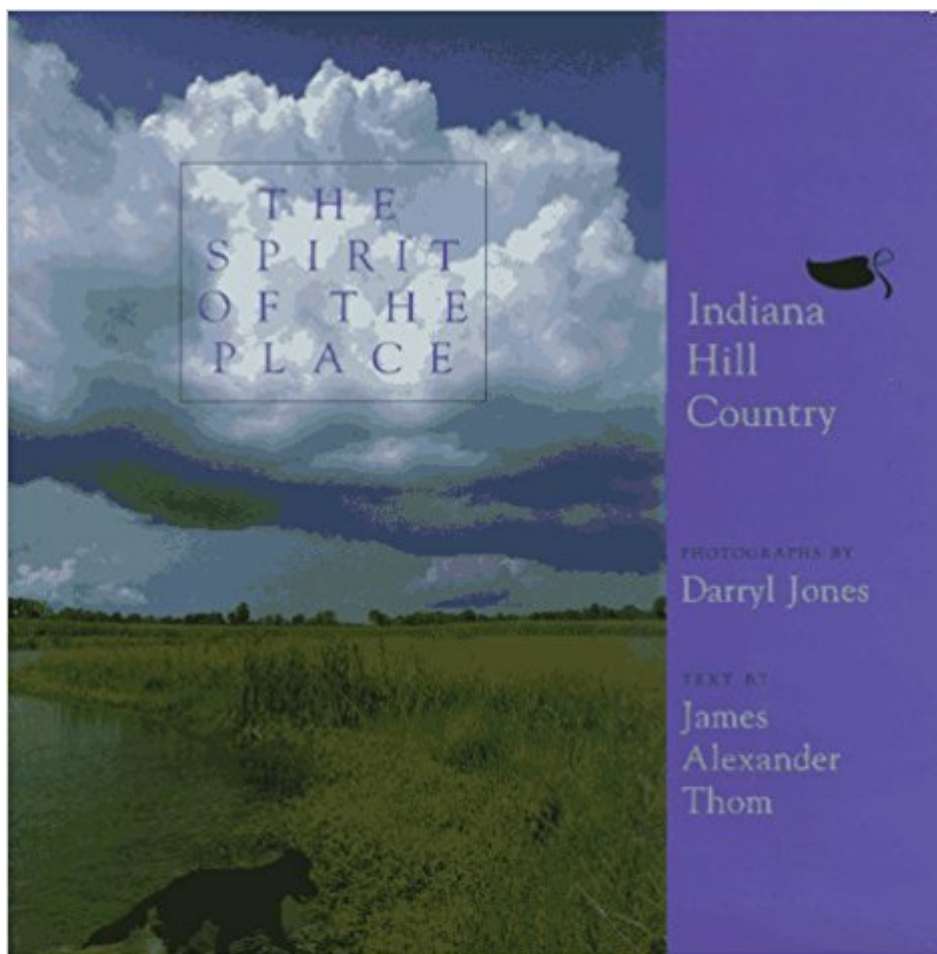


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# The Spirit Of The Place: Indiana Hill Country



## Synopsis

At Walden Pond, Thoreau found the setting which would inspire his famous musings on the nature of existence and the foibles of society. Jones and Thom take similar inspiration from the Southern Indiana hill country where they live and work, and in consort provide a beautiful and insightful meditation on the meaning of place and the value of community. 50 color photos.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

A delightful book of photographs ably supported by text, *The Spirit of the Place* is a celebration of the subtle rather than the spectacular. Although Indiana cannot lay claim to sensational snowcapped mountains such as the Rockies or vast geological formations such as the Grand Canyon, her gently rolling hills stained with autumn colors and her creekbeds sculpted by winter ice possess a quieter, no less profound beauty. Photographer Darryl Jones not only finds this beauty, but he translates it with breathtaking immediacy: a field of black-eyed Susans against a cloudless blue sky; morning light playing against a complicated pattern of rows of cut hay; sunset reflected in the ripples of a pond--this is the understated beauty of southern Indiana's hill country.

Accompanying these sublime images is James Alexander Thom's lyrical prose, which tells the story of the places and the people who settled them. *The Spirit of the Place* is contemplative, harmonious, and profound.

In Walden Pond Henry Thoreau found a setting which inspired his famous musings on the nature of existence and the foibles of his society. Photographer Jones and writer Thom take similar inspiration

from the hill country in Southern Indiana where they live and work and in consort provide a beautiful and insightful meditation on the meaning of place, the values of rootedness and community, and their different but similar paths toward personal harmony and spiritual understanding. Jones sees beyond the surface of nature to the basic elements - earth, air, water, and rock. His photographs are "contemplative studies on the metaphysics of nature, the invisible made visible, God's mind revealed", the pre-existing harmony which exists in nature if only we can see it. Thom's text, taking its inspiration from Jones's images, traces the cycle of his life from birth in rural Gosport, to journalism in the big cities of the world, and then back home again, where he found both his voice as a writer and his spiritual rootedness.

Beautiful photography and writing. Makes one very sad to see how the Native Americans were killed and their lands taken from them after so many thousands of years of caring for it. It was genocide, not taught in the schools, and one has to go searching for the truth. A very inconvenient truth of how this country was (really) started.

Fair photography of Indiana.

I love Indiana and this author apparently does too. This is a beautifully written and illustrated book.

Photographer Darryl Jones and author James Alexander Thom teamed together to make a wonderful little book about the natural beauty of the southern Indiana hill country. Thom's text complements Jones' photographs wonderfully. Being a native Hoosier, I have an appreciation for the subtle beauties of the state. Jones does as well. Most of his pictures are taken in hilly Owen county. He captures every season, as well as forest, field, stream, farm, and town scenes. Thom's text is part biography and part stories he heard growing up in Owen County. If you are a fan on Thom's other works, this one will be a nice addition. If you've never heard of Thom, this is a great place to get to know him and his motivations as an author. I give this one an 'A'.

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