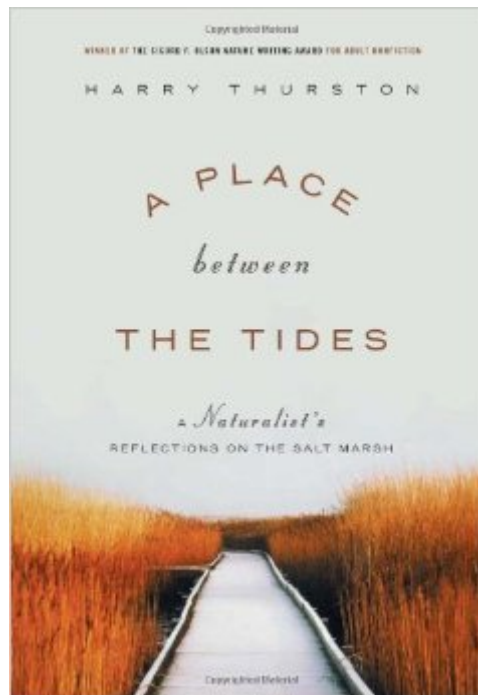


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A Place Between The Tides: A Naturalist's Reflections On The Salt Marsh



Synopsis

For every nature writer there seems to be one special place that tutors him or her in the ways of nature and the relationships of humans to the natural world, including the spiritual dimension. For Thoreau, it was a pond; for Henry Beaton, a barrier beach; for Annie Dillard, a creek. For Harry Thurston, it is the salt marsh, that part of the planet where land meets sea. Based upon childhood memory and his naturalist's journals, "A Place Between the Tides" is the story of Thurston's return to the beloved environment of his boyhood when he moves to the Old Marsh, a 1.5-hectare marsh on the banks of the Tidnish River in Nova Scotia. Elegantly moving back and forth in time, from the present year through the past decade and all the way back to childhood, the book describes the seasons in the life of the marsh as filtered through two decades of Thurston's living there. Blending acute analysis and a poet's lyricism, Thurston explores and examines one of the most productive and biologically diverse habitats on Earth, a habitat that has been degraded relentlessly since European settlement, making the few standing marshes precious because they are so vulnerable and vital.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

As a kid I lived near several salt marshes on Long Island. Reading Thurston's book was just like being home. The book is 230 pages broken into 12 chapters (1 for each month). The author nicely weaves his annual observations with facts, history, and personal experiences. The smell, buzz of the insects, warm breezes, and sounds of waving grass can easily be imagined as the seasons

move by. A year passes and we end waiting for the cycle to begin anew. Sufficient biological/ecological facts are provided to keep the interest of anyone wishing to learn more about the intricacies of this challenging habitat. Migrations, populations, food chains, and species behavior are all explored within the fabric of the story. Set in Nova Scotia, the author's descriptions matches any casual observations made along the northern Atlantic coastline. However, Thurston manages to go beyond and provide support for the universal messages such as inter-relatedness of all organisms and the sanctity of all species. Harry Thurston does for salt marshes what John Hay did for Cape Cod. I strongly recommend a visit to Thurston's backyard.

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