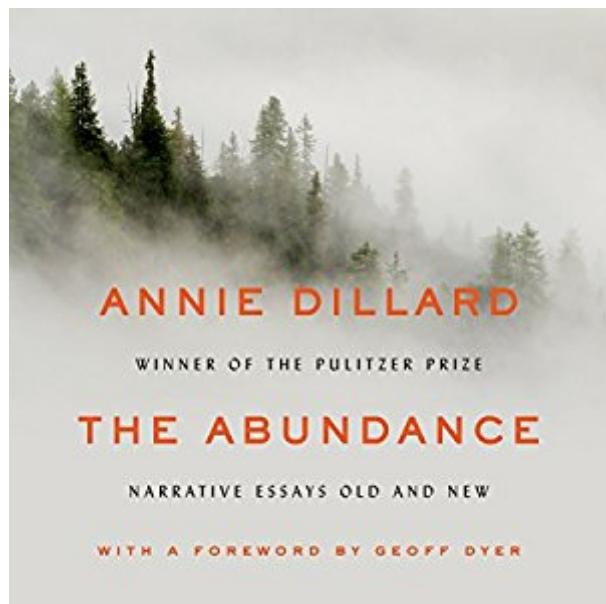


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The Abundance: Narrative Essays Old And New



Synopsis

Pulitzer Prize-Winning Author In recognition of her long and lauded career as a master essayist, a landmark collection including her most beloved pieces and some rarely seen work, rigorously curated by the author herself "A writer who never seems tired, who has never plodded her way through a page or sentence, Dillard can only be enjoyed by a wide-awake reader," warns Geoff Dyer in his introduction to this stellar collection. Carefully culled from her past work, *The Abundance* is quintessential Annie Dillard, delivered in her fierce and undeniably singular voice, filled with fascinating detail and metaphysical fact. The pieces within will exhilarate both admiring fans and a new generation of readers, having been "re-framed and re-hung," with fresh editing and reordering by the author, to situate these now seminal works within her larger canon. *The Abundance* reminds us that Dillard's brand of "novelized nonfiction" pioneered the form long before it came to be widely appreciated. Intense, vivid, and fearless, her work endows the true and seemingly ordinary aspects of life - a commuter chases snowball-throwing children through neighborhood streets, a teenager memorizes Rimbaud's poetry - with beauty and irony, inviting listeners onto sweeping landscapes, to join her in exploring the complexities of time and death, with a sense of humor: in one instance, an eagle falls from the sky with a weasel attached to its throat; in another, a man walks into a bar. Reminding us of the indelible contributions of this formative figure in contemporary nonfiction, *The Abundance* exquisitely showcases Annie Dillard's enigmatic, enduring genius, as Dillard herself wishes it to be marked.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Annie Dillard stopped writing. An NPR story told me. And as I read *The Abundance* I wondered what Dillard, the writer who stopped writing, wanted to tell me. Dillard is among a gifted few who notice things so well, who can describe what she notices too. As I read, I too then noticed (I thought) that I was reading a memoir, a slow unfolding of life story, years unfolding like we unfold tablecloths. Maybe this is what Dillard was telling me: life is lived when you notice the details. Attend to the moment and play out other moments by describing your experience. Turn it all into flowing story, eager, page-flipping story. But not too eager. While we *are* excited by the unfolding cloth, we *are* also nudged by Dillard to pay attention. Be excited, but not impatient. Dillard *lets* us kind see things because they wait around that extra moment. Most of us wander away just a second before. Then we hear Dillard yell, *Look!* We turn. It *is* gone. Attend, my friend. Attend. Stick around for that extra moment. You *are* about to see something.

Annie Dillard is an excellent narrator from the factual to the fantasy. Speed reading Annie's ultra long, essay--like sentences is impossible. She is an artist with words and fun to read.

I liked Ms. Dillard's style - I always have. I've only read *FFTB* & loved it. I recommend this to anyone who cherishes elite quality literary non-fiction. I chose this rating because I am inevitably bowled over by Ms. Dillard's authorial virtuosity.

I enjoyed every page of this book and learned from each chapter. From her *Expedition to the Pole* to *On Foot in Virginia's Roanoke Valley* (a beautifully written piece about getting down and dirty with nature and all it has to offer), Ms. Dillard had me reading every precious word. I think she proves in her writing that there is life and pleasure in the minutia as well as the spectacular that we most often ignore. This is a book I will soon revisit to feed further on her gourmet writings.

Good purchase. On-time delivery.

With her attention to detail and vivid descriptive prose the author opened my eyes and mind to take note of what I often fail to notice.

Vintage Annie Dillard...a collection of her essays and a great book to have around :)

The best thing I have read in years. I love Annie Dillard's work. It sharpens my senses and provokes me to pay attention.

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