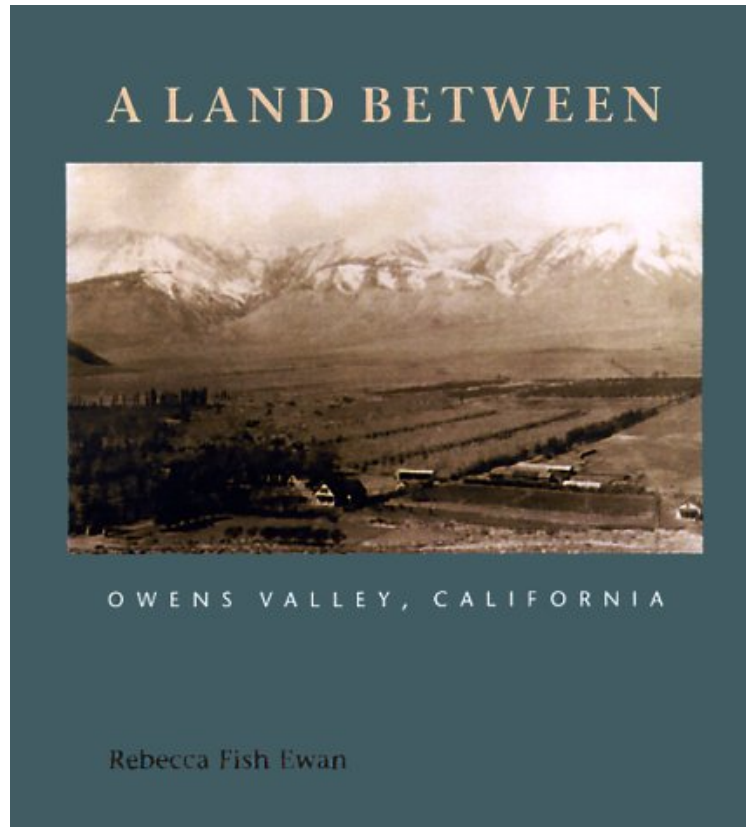


(Library ebook) A Land Between: Owens Valley, California (Center Books on Space, Place, and Time)

A Land Between: Owens Valley, California (Center Books on Space, Place, and Time)

Rebecca Fish Ewan

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before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Land Between: Owens Valley, California (Center Books on Space, Place, and Time):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Wonderful travelogue and guide bookBy macaddictedMy family has been going to the Owens Valley/Mammoth Lakes area for decades on vacation. I've purchased several books over the last few years trying to learn more about the things you don't see as you zoom by on hwy. 395. All have had a wealth of facts, history and trivia. This has the passion of someone who's life is entwined with the Owens like few others. There's passion and awe here, the same that most feel as the Sierras climb. Yosemite gets all the glory, but the beauty and history of the Owens Valley matches it very well.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Owens Valley bookBy VernA in depth study of the Owens Valley from the perspective of a resident. Covers the history, geology, and politics of this vital valley in eastern California.8 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Engaging, informative, scholarly, and highly recommendedBy Midwest Book ReviewRebecca Fish Ewan's A Land Between is an engaging, informative, scholarly, and highly recommended title which examines the idea of how people's

preconceptions of California's Owens Valley influenced their decisions about managing the land. Primary sources, oral histories and research provide a perspective on the land and residents of Owens Valley, examining its natural history, human occupation, and use over the decades. A unique and intriguing study.

"Owens Valley is a land between, a place tucked behind high mountains, arid yet soaked in water history, draped in desert vegetation yet remembered for its verdant farms, sparsely dotted with towns some no more than dreams on a map. It exists between stories, between vitality and decline, between granite mountains." from the Introduction
A unique landscape history, *A Land Between* explores the central idea of how people's preconceptions and perceptions of a place in this case, Owens Valley influence their interventions on the land. Rebecca Fish Ewan draws on primary sources, oral histories, and conversations, offering a story that reaches beyond the oft-told tale of water wars with Los Angeles. Ewan's gentle and poetic essays, illustrated with historical images and her own photographs of the region, provide a complex, multifaceted perspective on the land, the history, and the people of Owens Valley. Beginning with the land itself, the book's introduction describes the physical setting of Owens Valley and examines first impressions of the land including accounts from Numu myth, observations by nineteenth-century settlers, and excerpts from the author's journal of her own travels on horseback from the valley into the Sierra Nevada. The first essay explores the valley's natural history, focusing on the water, mountains, and plants to show a connection between the ecology of place and human use. The second essay chronicles the major periods of human occupation, beginning with the Numu (also referred to as Owens Valley Paiute in many sources) and ending in 1913, when the Department of Water and Power first diverted Owens River into the Los Angeles aqueduct. The third essay considers the valley after the diversion of water, from 1913 to the present including its use as a World War II Japanese internment camp and as a scenic locale for movies, especially westerns. Owens Valley is renowned for its unique topography and its striking contrasts in elevation rising from the below-sea-level depths of Death Valley to the 14,496-foot peak of Mt. Whitney. To search for the natural and cultural history embedded in Owens Valley, the author hiked to the top of that mountain, traveled on horseback across the meadows of the Kern Plateau, ventured on every forgotten dirt road in the valley that her truck could negotiate, and rambled on foot over the ancient stones of the Alabama Hills. *A Land Between* tells the stories of the people who have lived in the valley and uncovers the marks they have left on the land.

"A story well told, interwoven with the author's personal history and some fictional accounts based on the lives of those who struggled to wrest a living out of the high desert... The book is dotted with black-and-white photographs, historic and contemporary, some of which are quite beautiful." (Robert Pavlik California History Action) "*A Land Between* is a boundlessly original study, written by someone clearly invested in the local landscape yet capable of making sense of its larger patterns. Rebecca Ewan captures the qualities of the Owens Valley that make its legacy so enduring and rich." (Paul F. Starrs University of Nevada Reno, author of *Let the Cowboy Ride*) "It's a story well told, interwoven with the author's personal history and some fictional accounts based on the lives of those who struggled to wrest a living out of the high desert... It contains fresh insights and perspectives that a landscape architect brings to the subject... A nice size to carry along with you as you create your own memories of a land between." (Robert Pavlik California Historical) "It's a story well told, interwoven with the author's personal history and some fictional accounts based on the lives of those who struggled to wrest a living out of the high desert... It contains fresh insights and perspectives that a landscape architect brings to the subject... A nice size to carry along with you as you create your own memories of a land between." -- Robert Pavlik, California Historical "*A Land Between* is a boundlessly original study, written by someone clearly invested in the local landscape yet capable of making sense of its larger patterns. Rebecca Ewan captures the qualities of the Owens Valley that make its legacy so enduring and rich." -- Paul F. Starrs University of Nevada Reno, author of *Let the Cowboy Ride* "A story well told, interwoven with the author's personal history and some fictional accounts based on the lives of those who struggled to wrest a living out of the high desert... The book is dotted with black-and-white photographs, historic and contemporary, some of which are quite beautiful." -- Robert Pavlik, California History Action "*A Land Between* is a boundlessly original study, written by someone clearly invested in the local landscape yet capable of making sense of its larger patterns. Rebecca Ewan captures the qualities of the Owens Valley that make its legacy so enduring and rich." -- Paul F. Starrs University of Nevada Reno, author of *Let the Cowboy Ride*