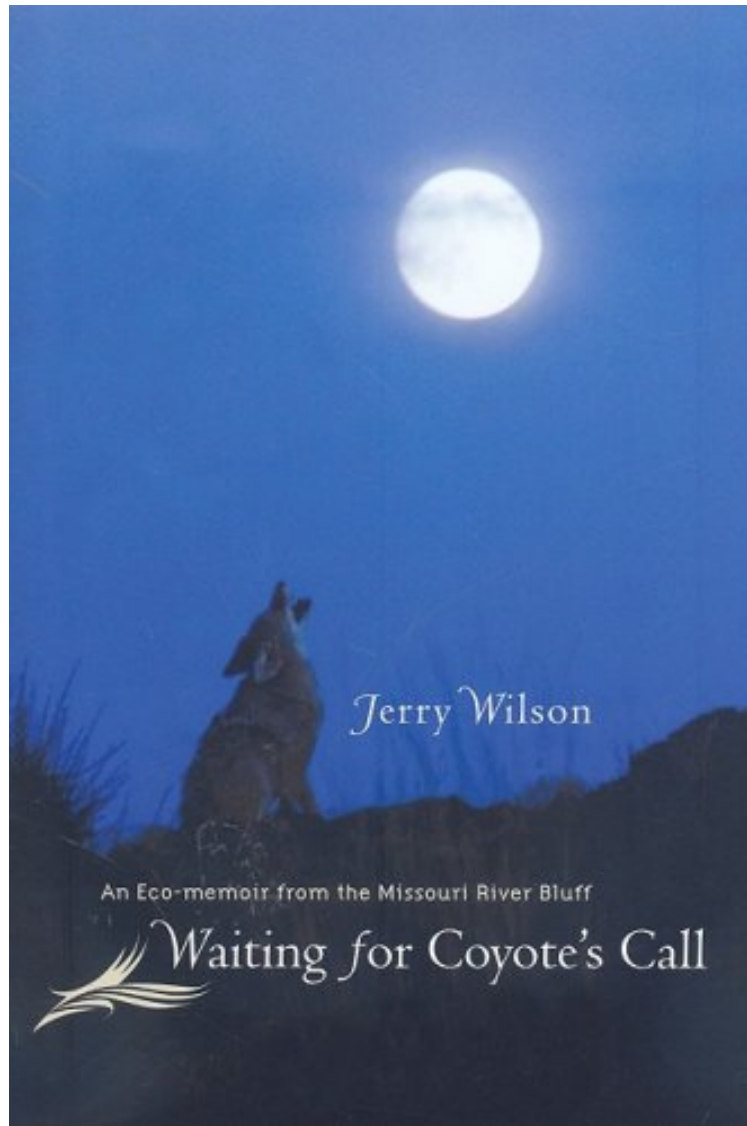


(Download) Waiting for Coyote's Call: An Eco-memoir from the Missouri River Bluff

Waiting for Coyote's Call: An Eco-memoir from the Missouri River Bluff

Jerry Wilson

**Download PDF | ePub | DOC | audiobook | ebooks*



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#3693644 in Books 2008-08Ingredients: Example IngredientsOriginal language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.00 x 6.25 x 1.25l, 1.20 #File Name: 0977795586284 pages | File size: 65.Mb

Jerry Wilson : Waiting for Coyote's Call: An Eco-memoir from the Missouri River Bluff before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Waiting for Coyote's Call: An Eco-memoir from the Missouri River Bluff:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A Memoir of a PlaceBy Mark J. NofsingerJerry Wilson's "Waiting for Coyote's Call" is four collections of essays related to the land overlooking the Missouri River valley where he and

his family make their home. The book is subtitled "An Eco-Memoir From the Missouri River Bluff." It isn't Wilson's memoir alone, though, for he writes not only about his life but also the life of the land well before he came. The essays range in subject matter from choosing the land to build on, to the history of its indigenous people and settlers, to restoring a portion of its ecosystem. Wilson harkens back to writers of the past who have examined their deep relationships with the land--Leopold, Dillard and Thoreau. With a long history of such writing before him, it's not surprising that Wilson doesn't really bring much that is new to the discussion. That, however, is not a bad thing. What Wilson does in living on and caring for this place for the brief time that he can is to put the philosophy shaped by his predecessors into practice. He demonstrates that knowing and caring for a place isn't limited to Walden Pond or Tinker's Creek, and that anyone who chooses to can at least attempt to live in harmony with the land where they make their home.

0 of 2 people found the following review helpful. An eco-memoir for the post-industrial world. By Kelly Garbato

In the preface to *WAITING FOR COYOTE'S CALL*, author Jerry Wilson notes that "It is too late for me to tell a pioneering story of 'going back to the land' or of discovering principles by which we might sustain Earth. [Henry David] Thoreau, [Aldo] Leopold, Annie Dillard, Wendell Berry, Candace Savage, and many others have told the story before me." Indeed, *WAITING FOR COYOTE'S CALL* - while an obvious descendant of the great American naturalists - is, for better or worse, set firmly in the modern world, complete with scientific advancements and technological wonders as well as environmental degradation and species loss. In this context, Wilson's memoir of his family's 25 years spent living on Missouri River in South Dakota is at once inspirational and bittersweet. In a five-part act, Wilson chronicles a quarter century spent living in harmony with nature. With his wife Norma, Wilson tries to live as eco-friendly a life as is possible in post-industrial America: they build a solar home, garden, restore prairie land, etc. Throughout it all, Wilson's appreciation of the natural world is apparent.* While the text can sometimes tend towards the flowery and rambling, *WAITING FOR COYOTE'S CALL* is for the most part an engaging look at our natural world: plants, animals, geography, history - and humanity's place in it all.* Unfortunately, as with many "environmentalists," this "love" only extends to non-human animals inasmuch as Wilson views them as a natural resource. As a vegan and animal rights advocate, I'm happy that Wilson tackles the issue of factory farming, if only briefly. However, he never gets as far as challenging the necessity of a meat-based diet in Western nations, instead waxing nostalgic for retro '50s family farms, which have since given way to abusive, polluting animal factories euphemistically known as "concentrated animal feeding operations," or CAFOs. This is a shame, as meat consumption is an unnecessary cruelty - billions of animals are slaughtered annually in the United States alone for no reason other than that Americans enjoy the taste of meat. Meanwhile, meat consumption is a major contributor to global warming; animal feces from CAFOs choke rivers and streams; bird flu is an increasingly grave threat; and meat consumption is linked to myriad health problems in humans. Anyone who truly "loves" animals or nature will abstain from eating meat whenever possible: that food you call "meat" is actually the corpse of an animal you claimed to "love." Of course, I expected as much when I requested *WAITING FOR COYOTE'S CALL* through Library Thing's Early Reviewer program. After all, only a small percentage of Americans are vegetarians - well below double digits - so naturally I assumed that the author subscribed to the speciesist mindset of our dominant culture. Disappointing, yes, but as this is an eco-memoir (not a vegan memoir), it doesn't negatively impact my review. Well, not much; Wilson's characterization of cows as "incurious" creatures irked me a bit, I'll admit. Ask a Poplar Springs or Farm Sanctuary volunteer, and methinks they'll disagree. Then again, these folks view "their" cows as sentient beings with individualized personalities, rather than milk machines and sources of income to be exploited.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Summing up a place and a life in that place

By Maggie Brasted

In *Waiting for Coyote's Call*, Jerry Wilson recounts his life on the Missouri River bluff and earlier events that sparked his love of nature. More than a simply memoir, Wilson hangs a larger tale on the framework of his life's story. This is also the story of the bluff, its place in history and in the larger natural world. A son of farmers, Wilson developed a love of nature and nature's citizens in early woodland roamings. Wilson and his wife Norma committed to living lightly on the earth. So much that they built an innovative solar home with their own labor and help from family, friends, and new neighbors. Building the house is only a small part of the story. Wilson recounts stories from his childhood and his life on the bluff, his children's childhoods, his neighbors, and people long gone. He also tells us stories of the animals, plants, water, and stone that are just as much his neighbors on the bluff as the aging farmers and departed spirits. Wilson only wishes "to suggest the diversity with which we live, to recall a few of the things we have learned from fellow inhabitants, and to raise questions for which I have few answers." I enjoyed the range and balance of topics and the author's conversational tone. We get just enough personal reminiscence mixed with a modicum of history and science to place one life in the context of its place. A skilled writer, Wilson carefully crafts all his wide-ranging bits of personal story, natural and social history, geography, and science into one very readable coherent story. Wilson clearly loves to tell stories. He also clearly loves his bluff and the natural world. He tells us, "I would be moved by the natural world. That, of course, is the reason for this book." It's a very good reason and Wilson has given us a very good book. I loved the natural world before reading *Waiting for Coyote's Call*. This vicarious experience of the bluff I have never seen, and likely never will, calls to me with bird songs, wind, water, and storytelling. I would love to spend another evening sitting by the Wilson's wood stove, listening to more stories.

hardcover with dust jacket, eight-page color insert, bibliography, index