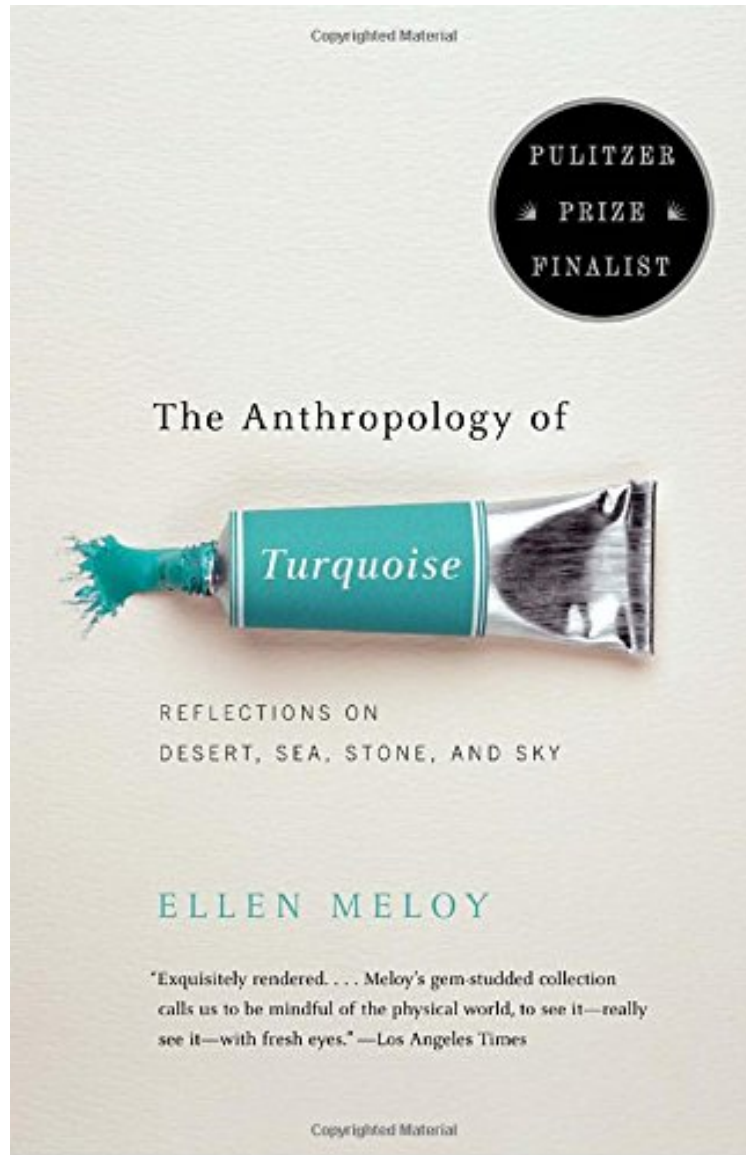


(Pdf free) The Anthropology of Turquoise: Reflections on Desert, Sea, Stone, and Sky

The Anthropology of Turquoise: Reflections on Desert, Sea, Stone, and Sky

Ellen Meloy

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#79681 in Books Meloy Ellen 2003-07-08 2003-07-08 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.00 x .70 x 5.20l, .51 #File Name: 0375708138336 pages The anthropology of turquoise | File size: 20.Mb

Ellen Meloy : The Anthropology of Turquoise: Reflections on Desert, Sea, Stone, and Sky before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Anthropology of Turquoise: Reflections on Desert, Sea, Stone, and Sky:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Fantastic Writing By John Albery This is poetry written in the form

of a novel. Outstanding, she gives you a sense of place by color, smell and even taste. I cannot use words to describe it as well as she does as that must be her gift and it tells of her life and of her aging. A very good book that I will go back to. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. At times almost poetical
By Ceres
I stumbled on this book during one of those periods in which I become overwhelmed by an urge to go and sit in the desert. Such feelings come to me from time to time. Unfortunately this wasn't practical at the time so I sought to satisfy my longing vicariously. Hence my browsing and my discovery of this book. Prior to that time I had never heard of the author or her book. It's difficult to categorize this book. The best that I can do is describe it. It is a collection of essays in which the author muses about various geologies, mostly the southwest, her feelings about the outdoors and her relationship with color. But there are many, many digressions including such subjects as her personal history and the social/political nature of Utah. For the most part I found these digressions enjoyable. Like others have commented I found many passages in which her prose is almost poetical. There are sentences, paragraphs and whole pages that one is tempted to read out loud to anyone who would care to listen. But there are also times that the flights of fancy become a little bit too personal, a little bit too abstruse. It is for this reason that I give it only four stars. Having said that I would still recommend this book. It is best read when one is in a quiet frame of mind, with no expectation of plot or narrative. As such it fulfilled my desire to go and sit in the desert without leaving home. And I came to appreciate the author's approach to life, her love of nature, her love of being alone and her sometimes irreverent habit of contrasting the lyricism of the desert with the more humorous and profane aspects of life. Doing so only helps one appreciate the totality of life. At times I found myself wondering why anyone would feel compelled to write such a book. I'm sure the author would reply that a writer writes because she has to. Writing is an indispensable part of the author's life. A life that the reader comes to share. Perhaps this is why, when I discovered half way through the book that the author had died unexpectedly in 2004 at the age of 58, that I felt a pain inside. I'll probably read another book by Ellen Meloy. Hopefully while sitting on a mesa somewhere. With no expectations.
1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. a like a modern day Thoreau meets Peter Matthiessen meets Edward ...
By Nathan Bladow
Ellen Meloy is an incredible author, a like a modern day Thoreau meets Peter Matthiessen meets Edward Abbey, but don't get me wrong her voice is still very much uniquely her own. this book is a literary delight with incredible imagery and feel. places are rendered vividly, and her stories drip with wit and charm. one of the best books I've read in years.

In this invigorating mix of natural history and adventure, artist-naturalist Ellen Meloy uses turquoise the color and the gem to probe deeper into our profound human attachment to landscape. From the Sierra Nevada, the Mojave Desert, the Yucatan Peninsula, and the Bahamas to her home ground on the high plateaus and deep canyons of the Southwest, we journey with Meloy through vistas of both great beauty and great desecration. Her keen vision makes us look anew at ancestral mountains, turquoise seas, and even motel swimming pools. She introduces us to Navajo velvet grandmothers whose attire and aesthetics absorb the vivid palette of their homeland, as well as to Persians who consider turquoise the life-saving equivalent of a bullet-proof vest. Throughout, Meloy invites us to appreciate along with her the endless surprises in all of life and celebrates the seduction to be found in our visual surroundings.

Exquisitely rendered. . . . Meloy's gem-studded collection calls us to be mindful of the physical world, to see it really see it with fresh eyes. Los Angeles Times
Meloy's vision of the world through turquoise-colored glasses is a unique, moving, self-effacing delight. The Washington Post
By the time you lift your eyes from the last page, you'll be longing to clasp a piece of stone, to be surrounded by blue water. . . . Powerful and transporting and funny. The Times-Picayune
Finely crafted, vigorously descriptive, dazzling in its insights into biology and culture. Booklist
[Meloy] crafts potent meditations on the desert landscape. . . . The Anthropology of Turquoise explores Meloy's beloved Southwestern region she knows intimately and describes with her trademark sharp wit. Salt Lake Tribune
Amusing and intelligent . . . the talented Meloy is a Southwestern voice to listen to. Santa Fe New Mexican
Smart, evocative, and memorable: "Nature-writing done right." Kirkus (starred review)
Combine[s] the best of travel writing with fascinating slices of history in an irresistible invitation to open our eyes and our minds, taking beauty where we find it. Kingston Springs Advocate
Diverse, thoughtful, and humorous. Albuquerque Journal
A book of great beauty under which lies a drumbeat of grief and passion for the desert. Meloy is a perfect, often hilarious guide. Trust her on any river. There are images in this book I will never forget. Nora Gallagher, author of Practicing Resurrection
From the Inside Flap
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