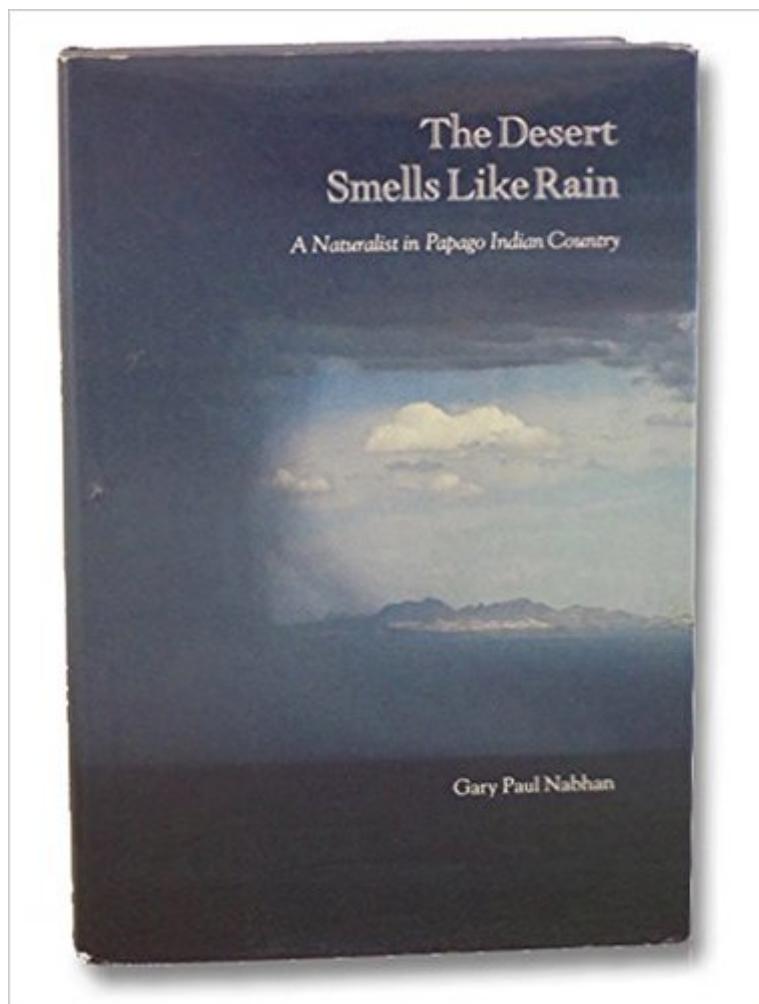


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Desert Smells Like Rain: A Naturalist In Papago Indian Country



Synopsis

From mountain shrines to lowland oases, ethnobiologist Gary Nabhan takes us on a series of journeys with contemporary Papago Indians, the Tohono O'odham, or "Desert People." From these journeys we discover how much the Desert People know about the dynamics of their arid homeland in Arizona and Sonora, Mexico. *The Desert Smells Like Rain* offers insights into the natural history of desert plants and animals as it documents a dying agricultural tradition that has enriched the biological diversity of the Papago's seemingly harsh environment. Drawing on his extensive scientific research and study of Papago folklore, as well as his years of work among the Desert People in village gardening and nutrition programs, Nabhan portrays a desert-adapted way of life that has persisted despite the pressures of modern civilization. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

Hardcover: 192 pages

Publisher: North Point Pr; First Edition edition (February 1982)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0865470499

ISBN-13: 978-0865470491

Product Dimensions: 9 x 6.2 x 0.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.2 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars See all reviews (6 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,509,457 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #79 in Books > Science & Math > Nature & Ecology > Ecosystems > Deserts #1067 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Professionals & Academics > Environmentalists & Naturalists #1400 in Books > Science & Math > Nature & Ecology > Natural History

Customer Reviews

Nabhan has written a beautifully eloquent book about the Papago people of Arizona. The book focuses on the importance of rainfall to these desert dwellers and the way that it has become a key part of their culture and their celebrations. But this book is more than a simple study of desert climate and agriculture. It is an exploration of the beauty of the desert and of an ancient culture that is struggling to live on their traditional lands in spite of the separation from their families across the border in Mexico, and despite the lessened rainfall. In the desert the rain is a magical thing, and Nabhan has captured the feeling of the first raindrops after a long dry-spell. A beautiful work.

I worked out in the Sonora for a few years and learned to love its wide open, quiet spaces, the sizzle of a cicada and the smell right before thunder breaks and rain falls in big warm drops. Living in Seattle, when I long for open grey-white land, the shade of the palo verde, the shuffle of a zebra-tail, I go down to the basement and find this book. Pure magic! Culture, nature and philosophy, this book has it all.

If you know how creosote smells after a desert rain, this book is for you. If you don't know, this book will help you to understand the appeal of the desert. A nice look into the Papago lifestyle of the '80s, some history, some desert lore, some naturalist bent. A nice read, recommended.

I live in the high desert myself and have always been curious about how dry land cultivation works. I always thought that in the past there was just more moisture. This really is a great book for understanding the relationship between humans and the earth in making a life in the desert. Water in the desert is a miracle and this book really highlights man's relation to the earth and survival.

Wonderful! One of the most eloquent and insightful books ever written on deserts, Native Americans, agriculture, etc., etc. A treat for both the mind and the heart...

This is a wonderful book. If you love the desert, or just want to know the desert - this is a wonderful book. Buy it before it disappears.

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