



## Nature Noir: A Park Ranger's Patrol in the Sierra

By Jordan Fisher Smith

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### Nature Noir: A Park Ranger's Patrol in the Sierra By Jordan Fisher Smith

A nature book unlike any other, Jordan Fisher Smith's startling account of fourteen years as a park ranger thoroughly dispels our idealized visions of life in the great outdoors. Instead of scout troops and placid birdwatchers, Smith's beat - a stretch of land that has been officially condemned to be flooded -- brings him into contact with drug users tweaked out to the point of violence, obsessed miners, and other dangerous creatures. In unflinchingly honest prose, he reveals the unexpectedly dark underbelly of patrolling and protecting public lands.

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## **Nature Noir: A Park Ranger's Patrol in the Sierra By Jordan Fisher Smith Bibliography**

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### Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Slated to be drowned by a dam, the California state park patrolled by the author of this haunting memoir is a "condemned landscape" of gorgeous river canyons hemmed in by exurban sprawl and peopled by eccentric gold miners, squatting families, drug dealers and miscellaneous drunken, gun-waving rowdies, a place where "turkey vultures floated... savoring the hot air for the inevitable attrition of heat, drought and violence." In his 14 years there, first-time author Smith encountered fights, beatings, suicides, daredevil canyon divers and the corpse of a woman jogger killed and half eaten by a cougar. His conflicted task of facilitating the communion of humans with the wilderness while keeping the humans civilized and the wild places wild becomes a mission against the "half-assed and watered-down... gray area" that is the modern world's "perpetual state of uncertainty." The clash of nature and civilization is a resonant theme, but it doesn't of itself yield compelling insights, and sometimes the author's essays add up to little more than shaggy-dog stories. But Smith writes with a novelistic sense of character, atmosphere and pacing, in a prose style that's wonderfully evocative of landscape and its effects on people. It will cause readers to both thrill and shudder at the call of the wild. >

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### Review

"Eloquently meditative . . . [Smith writes]with a gritty candor -- think of a gun-toting Norman Maclean or Wallace Stegner." -- Alan Burdick The New York Times Book Review

"Gloriously unlike anything I've ever read before . . . gives entree into a strange, dark, and mesmerizing outdoor world that's absolutely unforgettable." -- Caroline Leavitt Boston Globe

"He writes about the natural world with more grace than anyone since Edward Abbey." Newsweek

"Extraordinary . . . Nature Noir marks the debut of a terrific new nature writer, one whose penetrating, ranger's-eye view of the Sierra Nevada recalls the plain-spoken timbre of Edward Abbey and David James Duncan." Outside

"Gracefully weaves scenes and stories with context, history and reflection, in ways recalling the best of John McPhee." Los Angeles Times

"Our editors recommend . . . In his taut drama . . . Jordan Fisher Smith does much to dispel the notion of park users as docile birdwatchers in hiking shorts or rangers as kindly wildflower guides in khaki hats." The San Francisco Chronicle

"A wonderful antidote to the treachy Ansel Adams image of our parks." The Wall Street Journal

"Astonishing and fine . . . graceful, disturbing. . . [a] remarkable, hard-to-classify book." Cleveland Plain Dealer

"Smith offers a fresh perspective on our threatened environment . . . Nature Noir reflects the spirit of an era as did Desert Solitaire." Charlotte Observer

"A nature book unlike any other. . . infused with wonder, laced with heart-stopping descriptions of natural beauty and peppered with gritty, anti-romantic, all-too-real tales of cops 'n' bad guys in the great outdoors." The San Diego Union-Tribune

"By turns funny, poignant and surprising . . . an intimate memoir of the career of a state-park ranger. Not just any ranger, but one with a wicked pen, patrolling a doomed landscape." Seattle Times/Post-Intelligencer

"Nature Noir is by far the best book written by or about the modern park ranger I have read." -- Tom Wylie  
Bloomsbury Review

"Not only an electrifying tale of bringing the law to the wild west in the 1980s and '90s but also a graphic piece of writing from someone who has learned his craft from the royalty of American naturalists: writers like Gary Snyder, Aldo Leopold and Edward Abbey." Buffalo News

#### About the Author

Jordan Fisher Smith has been a park ranger for more than twenty years in Idaho, Wyoming, Alaska, and California. Nature Noir is his first book. He lives with his wife and two young children in the northern Sierra Nevada.

### Users Review

#### From reader reviews:

##### **Ann Fout:**

Book is to be different for each and every grade. Book for children right up until adult are different content. We all know that that book is very important for people. The book Nature Noir: A Park Ranger's Patrol in the Sierra ended up being making you to know about other know-how and of course you can take more information. It is rather advantages for you. The reserve Nature Noir: A Park Ranger's Patrol in the Sierra is not only giving you more new information but also to become your friend when you experience bored. You can spend your own spend time to read your publication. Try to make relationship with all the book Nature Noir: A Park Ranger's Patrol in the Sierra. You never sense lose out for everything in the event you read some books.

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